

## Civil Service unions decide today on future disruptions

Civil Service union leaders will meet today to decide how to continue their "guerrilla action" strikes against government and defence services, after what they regard as yesterday's highly successful one-day protest stoppage in their pay dispute. Hundreds of thousands of civil servants caused wide-

spread disruption to airports, tax computer services, courts, and public services generally. Union leaders claimed that the strike was supported by 450,000 white-collar workers. Government estimates were that 290,000 staff were involved. Support was greatest outside London.

## Conflict over numbers in one-day stoppage

By David Felton  
Labour Reporter  
Hundreds of thousands of civil servants caused widespread disruption yesterday to airports, courts, tax computer centres, and public services generally during a 24-hour strike called in protest at the Government's 1 per cent pay offer and its suspension of the Civil Service pay agreement. Union leaders claimed that the strike, which marks the first stage in a continuing campaign of guerrilla action, was supported by 450,000 white-collar workers in government departments and offices. The Government countered that it estimated about 290,000 staff were involved.

The large turnout to the strike by the nine unions in the Civil Service was hailed by union leaders as magnificent. The Civil Service Department said the action had been effective and had halted or disrupted many government operations.

Support for the service's first co-ordinated national strike, was much greater outside London and the unions claimed that in some areas there had been a 90 per cent response. "This should kill once and for all the myth that civil servants work in Whitehall," represents only a small proportion," a spokesman for the Council of Civil Service Unions said.

White-collar staff taking part in the protest ranged from clerks, typists, and tea ladies to senior staff in the Whitehall ministries. The unions said they had received reports that some staff in ministers' private offices had not reported for duty.

Tourist attractions in London such as the Tower and several museums were closed and around 100,000 people were held around the country as 75 per cent of staff in the centres walked out. Production of banknotes and coins was halted at the Royal Mint where, according to government figures, 93 per cent of the staff were on strike.

The unions have drawn up a list of targets for future disruption and will try to negotiate the tax changes which Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is expected to announce in today's Budget.

However, last night the Civil Service Department said that management of the department are confident that any changes announced by the Chancellor in his speech will be implemented at the proper time. The unions had forecast that increases in petrol, cigarette, and drink prices could be delayed because of their planned action.

The operations of Parliament were not affected, although 20 per cent of the Cabinet Office staff did not work. Pickets were in Whitehall, the House of Commons, and postal workers and a van delivering laundry were turned away from No 10 by the pickets.

Ministers meeting to discuss the effects of the strike heard that parts of the country's intelligence-gathering network had been affected, including sections of the seven listening stations and the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham.

Defence operations were also disrupted, including the Winter-St Nata exercise, which opened yesterday, and is a test of the West's preparedness for an attack from the Soviet Union. Work at several naval dockyards around the country was affected although the Polaris submarine base on the Clyde suffered only minor disruption.

About 60 per cent of Customs and Excise workers were on strike and, with very few customs officers on duty, long queues of traffic built up at the approaches to ports. Honesty boxes for excess duty were provided at Dover for passengers who returned with more than their allowance of duty free goods.

Most value added tax offices were closed, and the VAT computer centre at Southend, a target for future union action, was not operated. With 70 per cent of Inland Revenue staff on strike, about half the country's 1,200 tax offices were closed, with virtually no work being done at the remainder.

That was because support for the strike was strong at the tax computer centres at Cumbernauld, Shipley, Liverpool, and East Kilbride. Those centres are also likely targets for future strikes as the unions attempt to thwart the Government's collection of revenues.

Less than half the Sheriff courts in Scotland were able to sit, and 37 court sittings in England and Wales were postponed. There were reports that drivers of vans bringing prisoners to court were refusing to cross picket lines.

Work stopped at the vehicle licensing centre at Swansea where 85 per cent of the staff were absent, and there were closures of social security offices and job centres.

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## Social Democrats seek complete victory at polls, Mr Jenkins says

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

Mr Roy Jenkins last night announced that the new Social Democratic Party to be launched next month would seek mass membership and fight by-elections, but would concentrate on "complete victory" at the general election to form a government, with the Liberals. Speaking at a meeting of the Oxford Union Society, Mr Jenkins said that "well before Easter" the Council for Social Democracy would have been turned into the Social Democratic Party. It would use the full range of the party's resources to the greatest flux in British politics since the break-up of the old Liberal Party in the 1920s.

"We look for a mass membership. We shall welcome the formation of local groups. We shall mount a major campaign of meetings. We shall be prepared to fight by-elections, although like any sensible force we shall choose our ground and not allow to be dictated by others," Mr Jenkins said.

"Our sights will be essentially concentrated upon the next general election—probably about two years hence. We shall have a long enough period to choose our momentum, a short enough one to choose our powers of organization."

"At that election, working in close and friendly arrangement with the Liberal Party, we believe our mutual desire and it is certainly in our mutual interest, our aim will be no less than complete victory with a majority in the House of Commons and a Social Democratic/Liberal Government of Britain."

Mr Jenkins said that in the present state of public opinion and the "great chord of response which we have already struck", victory was feasible.

He went on: "Much will depend how effectively the new party can mobilize and maintain the enthusiasm which has been engendered, but the opportunity is there and if we fail to take it because of any Liberal-Social Democrat failure to work together, that would show an appalling lack of preparation and thrust on our party."

Fabian resignations: The four members of the newly formed Council of Social Democracy who are also on the executive of the Fabian Society have offered their resignations to save the society from having a politically divided leadership (Jan Bradley writes).

Mrs Shirley Williams was elected chairman of the society last November. Mr John Roper, MP for Farnworth, has been treasurer since 1976, and Mr John Cartwright, MP for Greenwich, Woolwich East, and Mr David Sainsbury were on the executive.

Their resignations, which are likely to be accepted at a meeting of the executive, a week today, will end a period of embarrassment for the Fabians.

The society is an affiliated organization of the Labour Party with voting rights at the annual party conference. However, several of its leading members have now left the party and become committed social democrats.

There is concern in the society that a sizeable minority of its 3,800 members might follow the chairman and join the new party.

## Heavy odds against apartheid in casinostans

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, March 9

South Africa, where gambling is illegal except on horses, is undergoing a severe bout of gambling fever. Growing numbers of South Africans of all races, enriched by the country's present gold-fuelled economic boom, are pouring out bags of money in casinos which are springing up around South Africa's borders.

At present there are seven casinos operating within easy driving distance of Johannesburg, Pretoria and the Reef towns where most of the country's surplus wealth is produced. Another five are due to open their doors to South African gamblers before the end of the year.

The casinos are situated either in independent black states such as Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana, which abut on South Africa's borders, or in the "independent" tribal homelands which are being established as a central part of the country's apartheid policy.

The homelands, otherwise known as Bantustans, have been dubbed "casinostans" because of the importance of gambling to their otherwise impoverished economies. The ultra-right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP), which is conducting an embarrassingly effective electoral campaign against the ruling National Party, has dismissed the Government plan to establish a "constellation of southern African states as a 'constellation of casinos'."

The gambling craze began several years ago when the Holiday Inn hotel chain made the establishment of a casino a condition of their opening hotels in Swaziland and Lesotho. The impact was immediate. In Swaziland the Royal Swazi which had only 60 bedrooms when it opened has become so popular that another 640 have been added.

In Lesotho there were only 100 hotel bedrooms before the advent of gambling. Now there are 700 with the Holiday Inn and Hilton hotels competing with each other for customers. But the real expansion in gambling has taken place during the past year or so after the establishment of a glittering Las Vegas-style fun palace known as Sun City in the Bophuthatswana homeland.

Sun City is only two hours' drive from Johannesburg, and on Saturday and Sunday 10,000 or more weekend gamblers pour across there from the industrial heart of South Africa to try their luck on the roulette tables and slot machines.

The money spent on building casinos would be much better spent on building schools or developing agriculture, it is argued. The opposing view is that casinos provide a way of spreading the country's white-controlled wealth around rural black areas. It was not for gambling, it is said, these territories would have virtually no other ways of raising revenue.

The advocates in favour of casinos also argue that they promote racial harmony. All of them are fully multi-racial and provide a rare opportunity for blacks and whites to gamble, dance, eat and even sleep together.

## Syrian troops move in around hijacked jet

From Robert Fisk  
Beirut, March 9

Seven lorry-loads of Syrian troops carrying automatic rifles and radios, drove tonight into Damascus airport where 130 passengers and crew on the seized Pakistani airliner were enduring the longest hijack ever.

Although there was no suggestion that the aircraft was about to be seized, the Pakistan Government is thought to have sanctioned the use of force if necessary.

The three young Pakistanis, holding their hostages at gunpoint, today stepped up their demands on their Government. A stewardess, released tonight after a seven-day ordeal on the aircraft, said that they had threatened to kill all the passengers if these demands were not met. Miss Farzana Sharif, aged 22, said that among 130 people on board were three Americans, a Canadian, an Algerian, a Swede, 11 Afghans and a United Nations official. Most of the passengers were Arabs from the Gulf states.

The identity of the hijackers became clearer only a few hours after their Boeing airliner landed at Damascus from Kabul this morning. Questioned by Syrian Government officials, they listed fresh demands in exchange from the hijackers: captives, including the freeing of all members of the Zulfikar Group, an organization loyal to the banned Pakistan People's Party.

They insisted that the Government of President Zia ul-Haq must end its "propaganda campaign" against the organization and that the authorities in Pakistan should release two named prisoners from jail.

The green and white jet was parked throughout the day about 600 yards from the airport control tower, where Syrian Government negotiators set up the traditional lines of communication with which all aircraft hijackers are now familiar: radio transmissions between aircraft and ground control, interspersed with long and ominous radio silences.

The three hijackers quickly established that they were members of Zulfikar group, named after the late People's Party leader, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was hanged by President Zia's Government in April, 1979.

Mr Sarfaraz Khan, the Pakistani Ambassador in Damascus, stood next to Syrian officials in the control tower as the hijackers listed their demands and then left hurriedly to consult by radio with his Government in Islamabad. It was clear from the start that the original demands—for the release of 92 opponents of the Zia regime—had been amplified and expanded.

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## French try to halt foot and mouth

From Ian Murray  
Paris, March 9

The French authorities have sealed off the village of Henancourt, near Lamballe, in Brittany where four animals have died from foot-and-mouth disease since last Thursday.

The region is intensively farmed by pig breeders and teams have been called in to carry out a systematic vaccination of the 300,000 pigs on farms within seven miles of the village. In addition 4,000 pigs and 140 cattle from the farms where the outbreak was confirmed have been slaughtered.

A special headquarters to control the operation has been set up in Lamballe to try to prevent any repetition of the epidemic which in 1974 decimated livestock in Brittany.

All road traffic into the area has been stopped, while pedestrians are having to undergo decontamination controls. Threat to Britain: The danger of the spread of foot-and-mouth disease from France to Britain has been reduced by the heavy rain in southern England (Hugh Clayton writes). Although the virus found in France is a type which can be transferred readily by wind, it is washed out of the sky in wet weather.

The Meteorological Office reported yesterday that winds in southern England were blowing towards France.

The outbreaks in France are the closest to Britain for more than a year. There were several outbreaks in Normandy in late 1979. The most recent European outbreak outside France was confirmed in Austria last week.

The disease is one of the most costly known to livestock farmers because of its rapid spread and the damage it can cause to animals through sores and lameness. Young animals can die from it.

It is rarely passed to the human population, in whom it produces symptoms similar to those of influenza. The last case of foot-and-mouth in man in Britain was in 1966.

## Soviet note arrives at No 10

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Mr Victor Popov, the Soviet Ambassador, called on Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday to deliver a letter from President Brezhnev containing an expected, said Downing Street, described as an "amplification" of the President's speech at last month's Communist Party Congress in Moscow.

His visit lasted 45 minutes. It was Mr Popov's first such all-out visit since the Soviet Ambassador in London, Mrs Thatcher, and Lord Carrington's angry meeting with Mr Nicolai Lunin in January, 1980, after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Among other subjects discussed were arms control, the European Security review conference in Madrid, and Anglo-Soviet relations generally.

The Prime Minister pointed out that it would be much easier to negotiate with the Russians if their troops were not in Afghanistan. Downing Street said but described as "private" the details of President Brezhnev's letter.

A fresh nuance: Government sources in Bonn said there were new nuances in the letter received by Herr Schmidt, the German Chancellor, on Tuesday.

In Bonn, Mr Nikolai Lunin, a Soviet Ambassador, said before delivering Mr Brezhnev's message to Signor Arnaldo Forlani, the Prime Minister, that it contained "good news for Italy."

In Denmark, Mr Anker Jørgensen, the Prime Minister, said in regard the Brezhnev letter as "interesting and thoughtful."

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## Budget measures likely to help business

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Civil Service union leaders meet this morning to decide how to continue to disrupt government and defence services after what they regard as a highly successful one-day protest stoppage.

The policy committee of the Council of Civil Service Unions, comprising general secretaries and presidents of the nine unions involved in the confrontation with the Cabinet, has been called into emergency session.

Mr William Kendall, the council's general secretary, described the 24-hour strike as a magnificent success and predicted: "The selective action will continue, and we will continue to put the boot in all areas that affect the Government until such time as somebody says they are prepared to negotiate or arbitrate."

He added that "nobody is going to shift" on the package of selective strikes, involving more than 1,000 civil servants, that will disrupt defence establishments, military surveillance, implementation of the Budget and the flow tax revenue to the Treasury.

The confidence of the unions, however, has cut little ice with the strategists of the Civil Service Department. Industrial relations experts working under Mr Gordon Burnett, deputy secretary, on a new scheme for determining salaries for government employees expect to take weeks rather than months to complete their task.

Officials are pessimistic about finding a compromise formula to put to the Civil Service unions on a replacement for the Pay Research Unit, which for practical purposes has been abolished by the Cabinet after 25 years of providing information on the gap between public and private employment.

Their pessimism is pointed up by Mr Kendall's strong line: "There must be movement on the 7 per cent pay offer. There must be a positive guarantee on a pay formula for 1982, and an understanding on arbitration."

There is no way in which the unions can go back to their members if there is no improvement."

## Warsaw talks to avert strike today

By Our Polish Staff

Mr Lech Walesa, leader of Solidarity, the Polish free trade union organization, had talks with Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the Deputy Prime Minister, in an attempt to avert a strike due to take place today in Lodz.

In Moscow the virtual disintegration of the Polish Communist Party is causing concern and the rebuilding of its shattered authority is considered to be an urgent priority.

Fisheries impasse  
British ministers told Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, that they would not compromise on their demand for large trawlers to be kept out of a belt between 12 and 50 miles from Britain's northern coast. Mr Thorn was making brief visits to London and Paris to seek a compromise between the British and French positions.

£4m attack on cancer  
A £4m research project has been started to treat deep-seated cancers that kill about 145,000 Britons a year. A powerful cyclotron is to be built at Clatterbridge hospital, Wirral, that will focus a beam of radiation to tumours of the gastro-intestinal tract, for which there is no satisfactory treatment at present. Also investigations will be carried out at Liverpool University into cells and radiation.

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## Sex murderer goes to electric chair

By Our Staff

Steven Judy, who raped and murdered a young mother and drowned her three children, was executed in the electric chair at Michigan City, Indiana, showing up the State's system of capital punishment.

There is a 10-year moratorium on capital punishment ended in January, 1977. There are 731 people awaiting execution in American prisons.

Leader page 15  
Letters: On Canada's Constitution, from Mr Robin Maxwell-Bryson, MP, and Mr Denis Goswick; Tunncliffe sale, from Mr Denis Mahon, FBA, and Mrs Elizabeth Whitman

Leading articles: Civil Service strike; Mr Breznev and Western leaders; Law of the Sea conference

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John Russell Taylor, on the assemblages of Joseph Cornell and Tony Cragg, and other new shows in London: Sir Iain Moncrieffe of that ilk reviews Ian Gribble's *Claes and Chiefs* Features, pages 9, 14

The man at the centre of the civil servants' strike: Ireland's passion for neutrality; Alan Hamilton's *London Diary*; Suzy Menkes on *There's a Party* obituary, page 16

Lord Rhy: Mrs Winifred Nicholson; Mr Kyri Kondratyev Sports, pages 7-9

Football: Semi-final draw for FA and Scottish Cups; Rossi joins Juventus for £1.5m; Rugby Union: England unchanged against France; Tennis: New national singles league

Business News, pages 17-22  
Stock Markets: Last-minute nervousness over the Budget saw equities tumble. But glits showed gains of up to 1 1/2 in the hope of a cut in M.L.R. The FT Index fell 6.2 to 462.9

Business features: Stephen Taylor discusses Zimbabwe's worries about oil; Robin Young looks at the English vineyards; Hugh Stephenson on how the economic scene has changed; Ross Davies's *Business Diary*

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## HOME NEWS

**\$100m expenditure on lightweight trains proposed to save 1,100 miles of country railways**

By Michael Bailey  
Transport Correspondent

Proposals to save more than 1,100 miles of rural railway in England and Wales that might otherwise face closure over the next decade have been put to the Department of Transport by British Rail.

They call for expenditure of about £100m at 1980 prices in lightweight trains and low-cost track between 1981 and 1991 to give a new lease of life to lines in the West Country, Wales, East Anglia, the Midlands and North that lose nearly £50m a year and are deteriorating fast for lack of capital investment.

The plan is expected to win support of Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, who has declared his strong support for keeping rural railways open where possible, instead of replacing them with roads. It also requires the agreement of the rail unions to

one-man trains and the loss of the jobs of several hundred signaller, crossing-keepers and station men. The plan depends on the use of the new lightweight two-car diesel train with British Leyland bus bodies that has just successfully completed two months experimental service between Ipswich and Lowestoft, and is about to go on trial in other parts of the country.

Carrying 102 passengers seated and 100 standing at up to 75 mph its cost is £200,000 to £250,000, about half that of a conventional unit, and British Rail wants about 250 sets for services over about 1,100 miles. Lineside signalling systems would be replaced by radio controls, and manned crossings by the continental type of automatic barriers.

British Rail decline to say which routes would be chosen because that depends on other factors, notably track renewal;

but the Central Transport Consultative Committee, the transport users' watchdog that has been pressing for light railways for some time, has prepared a list of suitable lines. They are:

North-east: Darlington-Bishop Auckland, Middlesbrough-Whitby, Newcastle-Consett, Newcastle-Ashington (the last two currently freight only); North-west: Helmsley-Rock Ferry, Preston-Colne, Preston-Ormskirk; Yorkshire: Huddersfield-Sheffield, Huddersfield-Wakefield, Huddersfield-Clayton West, Leeds-Gole, Bradford-Knightley; Midlands: Hereford-Worcester, Stourbridge-St John's-Stourbridge, Stourbridge-Northingham-Grantham, Town, Nottingham-Sheffield, Leicester-Peterborough, Bleichley-Bedford;

Wales: Llandudno-Blaenau Ffestiniog, Wrexham-Bidston, Whitland-Pembroke Dock; East Anglia: Ipswich-Cambridge, Ipswich-Felixstowe, Manningtree-Harwich, Norwich-Sheringham, Marks Tey-Sudbury;

South-west: Truro-Falmouth, Penzance, Liskeard-Looe, Plymouth-Gunnislake; Scotland is considered generally unsuitable for lightweight trains.

British Rail said: "We have told the department that there are three choices for the rural railways: hold government funding as it is, in which case we shall have to start on closures very soon; keep the service as it is, in which case funding will need to rise quite steeply, with perhaps a doubling of the deficit on those lines we want to take, or a low-cost railway in the second half of the decade."

The financial effect of the plan would be roughly to halve the deficit on those lines, enabling them to be kept open for at least another train life at a cost acceptable to the country.

**£4m research attack on 'deep' cancers**

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

A £4m research project has been launched into treating a group of cancers that kills about 145,000 people a year. It marks an important step in combating deep-seated tumours by radiation, through a machine generating a beam of powerful neutrons.

The collaborative effort by the Medical Research Council, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the Cancer Research Campaign, and two Liverpool-based charities, the Cancer and Polio Research Fund, and the Clatterbridge Cancer Research Trust, was announced yesterday.

The work will be done at Clatterbridge hospital, Wirral, where a cyclotron will be built through a £3m grant from the Imperial fund, and the research council, contributing running costs of £200,000 a year.

In addition, the Cancer Research Campaign is endowing a department at Liverpool University with £850,000 to investigate radiation treatment. The main target at Clatterbridge is deep-seated tumours of the gastrointestinal tract (stomach, bowel, rectum, pancreas) for which there is no satisfactory treatment.

Smaller cyclotrons are in use, producing neutron beams of moderate penetrative power, to kill relatively superficial tumours in the neck and head. The new machine is equipped with an isocentric head that steers the beam of powerful neutrons to the deep tumours. The cyclotron should come into operation in about two years. The university research will examine more fundamental aspects of how cells, and particularly cancerous ones, are affected by different types of radiation.



The Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer at Goldsmiths' Hall, City of London, for an evening of verse and music last night.

**Mr Steel is critical of democrat ploy**

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, has stamped on suggestions that Liberals should cooperate with Social Democrats in the Greater London Council elections.

Mr Steel was responding to suggestions by Lord George-Brown and the Social Democratic Alliance, supporters of the Council for Social Devolution, that Liberals should back their campaign against left-wing candidates in the GLC elections.

The Liberal candidates were told in a letter by Mr Steel last night: "I have tried over and over again to convince the Social Democrats that we cannot proceed on any basis of carving up the map of Britain between us, and that because the Liberal Party is already established with its local democratic units, any electoral agreements will have to be negotiated bit by bit in each region and each constituency. There can be no short cuts arranged at the top."

The alliance announced last week that it planned to challenge noted left wingers such as Mr Ted Knight, Mr Kenneth Livingstone, Mrs Frances Morrell and Mr Tony Banks, and called for Liberal support in the campaign.

Although the Council for Social Democracy has stated it will not contest elections until it has been officially formed into a political party, the alliance sees itself in the vanguard.

Mr Steel, in his letter, said that he had emphasized the need for Liberals to secure first a national political agreement on policy priorities with the Social Democrats.

"As soon as the CSD has formed itself into a party I hope we will have some joint discussion and speedy negotiation to arrive at an agreed programme on national priorities."

**Officer who shot girl denies being drunk**

From Arthur Osma  
Birmingham

A detective constable said at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday that he understood he had shot Miss Gail Kinchin but denied when questioned by Mr David Pagett, who is accused of her murder, that he had been drunk.

The court had heard from Det Constable Gerald Richards and Det Sergeant Thomas Sarraín of the scene at a block of flats at Rubery, Birmingham.

In answer to Mr Justice Park, Constable Richards said he did not think Miss Kinchin had been there when he opened fire.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr Pagett, aged 31, of Deaklands Road, Rubery, used Miss Kinchin as a shield to absorb return fire by police in a late night siege last June. Miss Kinchin, who was pregnant, was hit by three bullets and died a month later.

Mr Pagett has denied murdering her, three charges of attempted murder, taking away Miss Kinchin and her mother, illegally possessing the shotgun, and wounding.

In evidence Constable Richards said that he was with Sgt Sarraín on the landing above a flat where the defendant was with the girl.

When the flat door opened he saw a woman standing with a man whose arm was round her neck.

Mr Pagett started shouting to them to get down the stairs or he would kill them. He heard Miss Kinchin scream: "He is going to kill me."

The officer continued: "I was looking down the staircase and saw a shape go past the bottom of the stairs. The shape was moving quickly and he ordered: 'Stand still. We are armed police'."

As he shouted the shotgun was fired up the stairs at them. "I returned the fire. I fired four rounds."

"There was a slight delay and there was another blast of the shotgun. I returned the fire."

Mr Pagett asked him: "It was you, you were the chap who killed her?" The officer replied: "So I understand, yes."

He agreed he had aimed six times from 12 ft and did not know he had hit her.

Mr Pagett remarked: "You were not watching what you were aiming at. Were you drunk?"

Officer: "Most certainly not." Mr Pagett: "I know you were, but I cannot prove it." The hearing continues today.

**Opposition group pledges repeal of nationality Bill**

By Lucy Hodges

The Labour Party last night bound future Labour governments to repeal sections of the nationality Bill now going through Parliament, when its home policy committee approved an uncompromising statement on the issue.

The statement, which will go before the full national executive committee before it is put to the party conference this year, totally rejected the Bill. It said that nationality law should not give respectability to immigration law.

It is very different in tone from the green paper on nationality produced by the last Labour Government when Mr Merlyn Rees was Home Secretary.

**Labour leadership issue**

By Our Political Reporter

The prospect of the Labour Party starting its annual conference on a Sunday evening in Brighton to elect the leader and deputy leader was raised last night, much to the astonishment of Labour MPs.

The party's organization committee yesterday approved the suggestion, by six votes to four, on the ground that it wanted to get the issue out of the way before the conference proper began on the Monday.

While Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, is expected to be endorsed by the conference without an opponent, it is possible that Mr Denis Healey will be challenged for the deputy leadership by Mr Wedgwood Benn.

It was felt that the full national executive committee would later this month overturn the organization committee's recommendation, even though there was merit in settling the leadership quickly.

**Court order against sit-in students**

By a Staff Reporter

University College London yesterday obtained a court order to repossess administrative offices which have been occupied by the past two weeks by students protesting against the increase in overseas student fees.

Lord Annan, provost of the college, said yesterday: "We have great sympathy with the motives of the protestors but we have no power over the matter of overseas student's fees. We have to obey the Government."

**Army to replace its veteran two-inch mortar**

By Our Defence Correspondent

The two-inch mortar, which has been in use since the 1930s and holds the doubtful distinction of being the oldest infantry weapon in the British Army, is being replaced.

It will give way during the next three years to the new 51 mm model, which is being produced by the Royal Ordnance Factory at Nottingham. About 2,000 have been ordered. The new mortar, which in length and weight (13lb) resembles the old one, will start coming into service early next year. It will have its own aiming sight.

**Lords seek farming ban powers in moorland Bill**

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

The Government will come under strong pressure this week to accept an amendment to the Wildlife and Countryside Bill, which would give national park authorities powers to prevent the ploughing or afforestation of moorland.

The amendment is to be moved by Lady White at the Bill's report stage in the House of Lords, and replaces a similar one which was narrowly lost in committee last month.

Concern at the continuing loss of moorland, and ineffec-

tiveness of the authorities to prevent it, is given added weight by a joint memorandum from the Council for National Parks and the Council for the Protection of Rural England. On Exmoor more than 13,800 acres of remote moorland, exceeding 20 per cent of the total area, has been ploughed up since the park was designated in 1954, the memorandum states.

On the North York Moors, more than 40,000 acres were lost to agriculture and forestry between 1950 and 1980, representing nearly a quarter of the entire park.

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## Irish and Welsh missionaries go quietly among the bullets in El Salvador guerrilla territory

From Michael Leapman  
San Francisco de Gotera  
March 9

Two Welsh nuns and three Irish monks do their missionary work in one of the most perilous areas of this warring country and have no intention of quitting.

"We have a job to do here," said Father Peter O'Neill, a 38-year-old member of the Franciscan order, who comes from Dublin and keeps his soft Irish accent. "We're a help to the people in some ways. While we can still be a help to the people we would like to stay."

Sitting opposite him on the patio of the priests' house, Sister Anselm Guan, a tall and handsome woman of 52 from Swansea, nodded emphatically. She and Sister Jean Ryan from Port Talbot, who is 49, are of the Sisters of St. Clare. They wear beige blouses and dark brown skirts with a brown headress.

The town in which the five fulfill their mission is a hundred miles east of San Salvador, below the mountains south of the Honduras border, where the left-wing guerrillas are strong. From here, they minister to 30,000 people in a 400 sq. mile parish.

Despite the guerrilla war which flares irregularly in the countryside, the five visit the 10 towns of the parish once a week and the 52 villages once a month; but the monthly meetings they used to hold here for the lay leaders of the communities have been cancelled.

A large group coming in from the countryside would cause suspicion, Father Peter said. "Four of our catechists (lay leaders) have been killed



over the last year. One of our main difficulties is the suspicion in the army against lay leaders."

The Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador has been identified with the left, especially when it was led by Archbishop Oscar Romero, murdered by a right-wing gunman a year ago. In December three American nuns and a lay worker were shot by men believed to be connected with the security forces. Did that make the five nervous?

"More upset than nervous," Sister Anselm said. "We knew them well. The boys had thanked dinner with them a few days before they were killed."

She added: "We've consistently through the years shown ourselves to be supporting the people, though not in a political way. They (the Army) obviously suspect us; but on the other hand they're probably a bit scared to come and do anything."

Father Peter said they had received third person threats, "so and so says he's going to get you"; but no direct threats. If asked to intercede in favour of people arrested by the military they do so and they will drive people threatened by army. "The Salvadoran problem is Honduras border to safety."

Sister Anselm is the oldest of

the five. The youngest is Father Gerard Moore from Dublin, at 37. The other monk is Father Alfred O'Lochra from Limerick, who is 39 and has been in El Salvador for 12 years.

"We do find ourselves quite isolated here as regards information," Father Gerard said. "One of our best sources is journalists who come up here, and we listen to the BBC."

They are loath to comment on politics but it is clear where their sympathies lie. They do not accept the view often heard in the capital that the left has lost support since the failure of the January offensive and the increased American commitment to the junta.

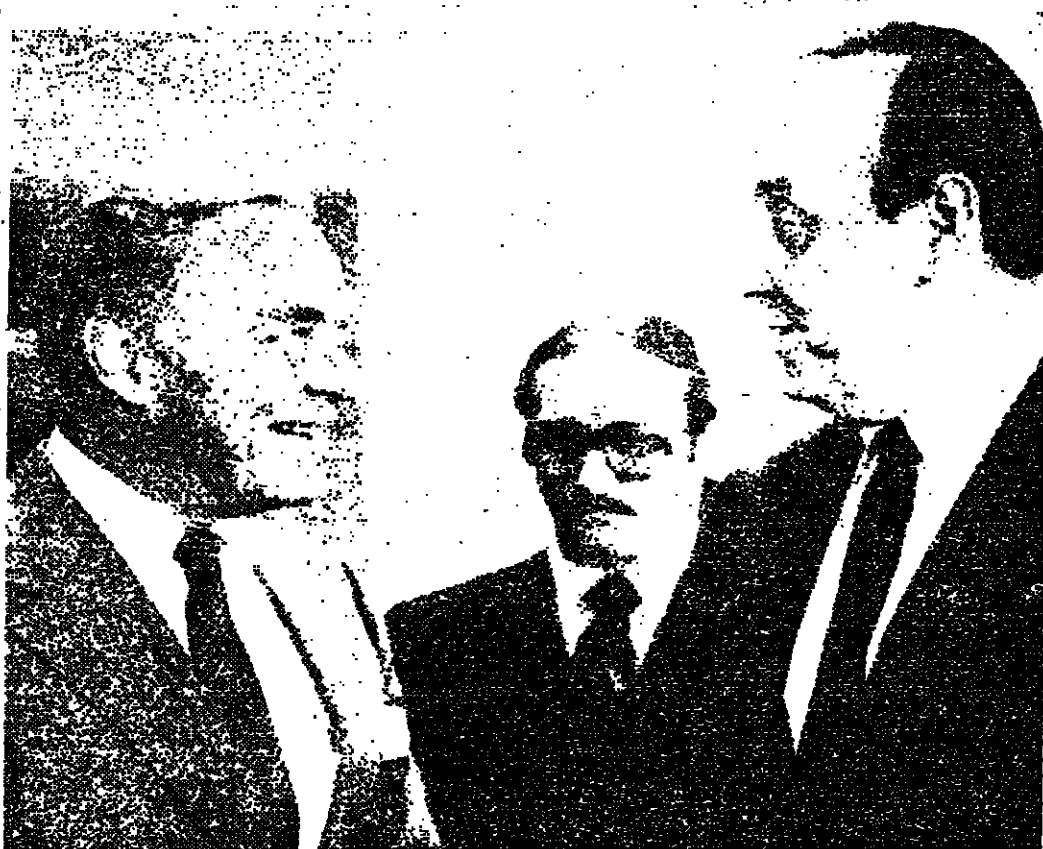
Finding themselves amid all this fear and bloody conflict, are they sorry they came? "Oh, no," Sister Anselm replied quickly. "Delighted. It's a great challenge."

Press threat: One of the American instructors at the centre of the controversy over aid to El Salvador said today that the greatest danger comes from the press.

Two of the 54 instructors here were presented to the press at the military airport under strict security rules including a ban on pictures. The men would not give their names or ranks.

The engineering instructor has served in Vietnam, but found no real comparison between the two wars. He said the Salvadoran fighting men were superior to the South Vietnamese in "organization, discipline and motivation."

"The Salvadoran problem is not capability. It's equipment."



Mr Haig, left, with Herr Genscher at the State Department yesterday.

## US interest in Soviet proposals

From David Cross  
Washington, March 9

In his most positive statement on the subject so far, Mr Alexander Haig, Secretary of State, said today that Washington was "very interested" in some aspects of the speech to the twenty-sixth Communist Party Congress by President Brezhnev.

Mr Haig, who had just finished a round of talks here with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, disclosed that the United States had also received a copy of a letter sent by Mr Brezhnev to West European

capitals, including Bonn, last week.

In his letter to Washington, the Soviet leader had reiterated the "essence" of the speech he gave last month, Mr Haig said.

He also said that one of the most interesting features of Mr Brezhnev's proposals to improve East-West relations was his suggestion that NATO and Warsaw Pact nations should announce details of military exercises between the Atlantic and the Urals as a confidence-building measure.

But Washington was "not particularly impressed" by Mr Brezhnev's proposal for a freeze on the deployment of theatre nuclear weapons in Europe.

Mr Haig said that the new Administration would continue to consult its allies about Mr Brezhnev's proposal for a summit conference as well as his other suggestions.

Herr Genscher told reporters

after his talks with Mr Haig that he welcomed Washington's "general readiness" to negotiate in all fields and at all levels with the Soviet Union.

He conceded, however, that any summit meeting between the two superpowers needed "very thorough" preparation.

As was only to be expected in his remarks to reporters, Herr Genscher emphasized on several occasions the importance Bonn attached to arms limitation talks with Moscow.

He also underlined Bonn's determination to support and help developing countries to safeguard their independence and autonomy. He carefully avoided any mention of El Salvador by name.

Mr Haig, on the other hand, went out of his way to say that he welcomed recent statements by West German Government leaders condemning outside intervention in the Central American republic.

## Israel to open first law court in West Bank

From Christopher Walker  
Jerusalem, March 9

A significant extension of Jewish influence in the occupied West Bank will take place next month with the establishment of the first Israeli civil court allowed to operate in the area since it was seized in 1967.

The court at Kiryat Arba, the largest and most urbanized of the Jewish settlements will deal only with the 4,000 Jewish residents and will have jurisdiction over the 60,000 Palestinians in the town of Hebron where the settlement is located.

Known in Hebrew terminology as a "municipal court" it will be similar to a British magistrates court, with powers both to fine and to imprison. All appeals will be through the normal Israeli legal system and be heard by judges at the district court in Jerusalem.

Although only one court is to be established immediately, it is understood the writ is open for others to be set up in the main Jewish settlements. The move comes after angry protests from the settlers, who have repeatedly called on the Government of Mr Begin to extend all Israeli laws to the settlements.

Most of the work of the new court will be concerned with imposing council by-laws, in matters as taxation and licensing. The settlers at Kiryat Arba believe it will operate exactly as its counterparts inside Israel proper, but the military Government maintains it will conform with Jordanian law.

The military order sanctioning the opening of the new court was issued last week with little accompanying publicity or explanation. It came at the same time as other orders per-

mitting the setting up of five Jewish local councils in the main West Bank settlements.

The settlements covered by the orders are Kiryat Arba, Ma'aleh Agumim, Eilat, Arif and Ma'aleh Ephraim. Previously they belonged to a network of regional councils set up in 1973, but according to an Israeli official, the new independent councils will make it easier to develop the settlements into towns.

The extension of Israeli civil law to the settlements is regarded by Palestinian politicians as the most serious step in the "creeping annexation" which they have repeatedly claimed to be under way since the occupation began.

The new military orders come as the ruling Likud coalition deliberately accelerating its West Bank settlement programme in the run-up to the June general election.

Ironically, it also comes at a time when senior Israeli ministers are criticizing Egypt for refusing to resume the deadlocked talks on Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strips.

Mrs Felicia Langer, a left-wing Jewish lawyer who specializes in West Bank cases, said today: "This is a dangerous development which is a blatant contravention of the international law covering occupation territory."

Mr Elias Freij, the elected Palestinian Mayor of Bethlehem, said: "The sanctioning of the new court is a political move of the greatest political significance. As far as the settlements and the Arab law seized to build them is concerned, this is Israeli annexation by another name."

## Gulf states draft rules for a new grouping

Muscat, March 9. — The foreign ministers of six Arab oil states agreed today on most details of a plan to bind their countries closer together in a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Qais al-Zawawi, Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, announced.

He told reporters that the heads of state of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain would meet on May 26-27, probably in Abu Dhabi, to endorse the plan.

The council will be a framework for coordinating economic, political and security policies with the aim of welding the six into a community and safeguarding stability in the Gulf region.

The ministers are due to initial the council's constitution tomorrow after settling what Mr Zawawi called some minor financial and administrative points.

The council will consist of a supreme council of heads of state and another of ministers, both meeting regularly, backed by a secretariat in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Mr Zawawi said points agreed on today included voting arrangements for the council but gave no details. He said the ministers agreed that the heads of state should meet twice a year and the ministers four times a year, he said might discuss names for the post of secretary-general of the new organization tomorrow.—Reuter.

Defence pact: Motivated by the events around them, such as the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, the Iranian revolution and the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Arab states in the Gulf have agreed to cooperate in their efforts to maintain the stability of the region. A formal joint defence pact may be one of the ultimate objectives, but it is not likely to be a matter of urgent consideration, (Tewfik Mubawwad writes from Beirut).

Although the six Arab states are ruled by conservative, pro-Western regimes, they are reluctant to be closely identified with the West, and even more reluctant to accept foreign military bases on their territories.

Gulf officials and their media, have consistently advocated the Saudi need and stability of the region are the exclusive responsibility of the littoral states.

The Gulf states reacted strongly last week to a proposal by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, for Western participation in a rapid deployment force to defend the area against Soviet threats.

Shaikh Muhammad Abdo Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Information Minister, said in a statement published in the Saudi newspaper Al-Muduna that his country "rejects tutelage" by anyone, and added that the Gulf states were "capable of defending themselves."

Significantly excluded from the Gulf Cooperation Council is Iraq, which is fighting Iran. Some Gulf officials have said Iraq supports the new Gulf institution, but is now too busy to become an active member.

Deal denounced: In a formal statement in Jerusalem after an extraordinary meeting, the Israeli cabinet today sharply denounced the proposed summit of American offensive weapon to Saudi Arabia and said it would disturb the strategic balance in the Middle East (Moshe Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv).

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There was no sign this evening, however, that any of the gunmen had asked for the aircraft to be refuelled.

A Syrian security officer went on board the aircraft this morning and soon afterwards food and drink were taken into the aircraft by ground staff.

They later reported that the only woman hostage left had become hysterical after her seven-day ordeal on board; but the hijackers' names are not known, although Pakistani authorities said they were "90 per cent certain" the leader was Salamullah Khan, a graduate student at Karachi University, who they said is wanted for murder and is believed to be in Islamabad.

It was also believed that Mr Bhutto's son, who had helped to organize the hijack, had been in Kabul and was now on board the aircraft in Damascus. But Syrian officials denied that he was there.

That President Zia views the hijacking with grave misgivings is evident from his further arrests of Bhutto supporters in Pakistan and his appeal to President Reagan and President Brezhnev to intervene.

## Atom power protests by Japanese

From Peter Hazelhurst  
Tokyo, March 9

Japan's ambitious plans to build more nuclear power stations are encountering increasing resistance from protest movements.

The residents of Kubokawa town on Shikoku Island have voted out their mayor who had supported Communist plans for a nuclear power station.

At present Japan obtains 15 million kilowatts of electric power from 21 nuclear stations and it is hoped to build another 14 plants by 1985. But construction work at most sites has come to a virtual standstill for the past 18 months since the accident at Three Mile Island

## General indicted for rebellion in Spain

From Richard Wigg  
Madrid, March 9

Lieutenant General Jaime Milans del Bosch, the former army commander in the Valencia region, has been indicted for military rebellion, the state news agency EFE, reported this evening.

General Milans, aged 65, ordered tanks into the streets during the abortive coup last month. He is the first important figure to be indicted by General Jose Maria Garcia Escudero, the Air Force judge appointed to investigate the ramifications of the failed coup.

Two other generals, including Lieutenant General Alfonso Armada, former deputy chief of the Army General Staff, are

## General indicted for rebellion in Spain

under arrest and being investigated, and a third has been relieved of his command.

General Milans was alone in declaring a state of emergency, a step which under the constitution only the civil authorities are empowered to take. He so worded his declaration, however, as to make it appear that he was acting pending receipt of orders from King Juan Carlos.

The general was finally persuaded to remove the tanks from the streets and was later flown to Madrid and arrested.

General Milans will be tried by the Supreme Council of Military Justice. He faces a maximum sentence of 30 years' imprisonment.

## New attacks on independent trade unions highlight Moscow's concern

## Rebuilding Poland's party is priority for Soviet Union

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, March 9

One of the issues at the heart of Soviet concern over events in Poland is the virtual disintegration of the Polish Communist Party. The Russians now regard the rebuilding of its shattered ranks as an urgent priority in restoring things to normal there.

Since the Soviet party Congress there have been several indications of Moscow's concern, and the Russians are now pressing for the postponement of at least a year, of the Polish party Congress, due to be held within the next three months.

The issue was almost certainly raised last week at the summit meeting in Moscow between President Brezhnev and his senior Politburo colleagues and Mr Stanislaw Kania, the Polish party leader, and his delegation.

A congress of the Polish party in its present state would be extremely dangerous in Moscow's view, coming at a time when it is split into factions and Mr Kania has not established full support for his policies. The result would be a genuine and probably heated debate whose outcome could not be foreseen.

In the Soviet view this is not the function of a congress, which is meant to be a pre-arranged, formal, unanimous endorsement of policies agreed on beforehand in private conversations. The spokesman of an open discussion with opposing factions adducing evidence in public for their viewpoints is not what the Russians understand as "Democratic centralism," and smacks too much of political pluralism.

The second danger is that such a congress would come at a time when the party has not yet reestablished its discredited authority over all sectors of Polish life, and resolutions passed might enshrine a diminished role for the party in the country. The Russians regard concessions made to Solidarity, the independent trade union, as tactical and do not want to see these endorsed at a time when Solidarity still wields considerable power.

Thirdly, members of the present Central Committee were elected before the present Polish troubles began last year, and many would almost certainly lose their seats to more liberal members. There is even talk in Warsaw of more than one candidate standing for the same seat, something unthinkable in Soviet practice where nomination ensures unopposed election.

Any mass defeat of hard-liners, clearly identified with Moscow's views and the former Gierka regime, would be regarded as a humiliation by the Russians.

It was partly to forestall the election of a liberal majority in the Czechoslovak party Central Committee that the Russians invaded in 1968.

Meanwhile, the Soviet press has given important new ideological backing to the Soviet claim that independent trade unions are incompatible with a communist state modelled on orthodox Leninist lines. Over the weekend Pravda quoted Lenin telling a party congress in 1921 that all organizations, including trade unions, had to be subordinate to the Communist Party.

"The main role of trade unions is to be a school of communism, that is to help the party and to educate the masses in the communist spirit," an article quoted him saying in reply to his opponents' suggestions that the trade unions shonky while the party confined itself to the political sphere.

The article said the 1921 congress prevented "opportunistic elements following purely demagogical aims" from removing the party from the control of the working class.

This is the second time that Pravda has quoted Lenin on trade unions, with clear though unstated reference to the situation in Poland. Last September, soon after the Gdansk agreement between the Polish party and striking workers that allowed the establishment of independent unions, the paper quoted Lenin, the theoretical justification for all Soviet policy, as saying trade unions could not exist outside the party.

Pravda yesterday also pointed out that it was during the March 1921 congress that "counter-revolutionaries" instigated a revolt against the party at the Kronstadt naval base under the slogan "Power to the Soviets but not to the party."

Drawing the parallel with Poland today where the Russians say counter-revolution threatens to engulf the country, it added: "This and similar slogans, designed to deceive the masses, are used by present-day anti-communists attempting to undermine the foundations of the new system."

As a clear sign of approval, the Soviet press was quick this weekend to report the detention of four Polish dissidents, and said the "Confederation of Independent Poland" to which they belonged was financed from abroad.

The Russians pressed Mr Kania for swift action against dissidents when he was in Moscow. But a Tass report on Saturday suggested Soviet anger that Solidarity had been able to stop the Polish authorities getting Mr Adam Michnik, a leading member of the KOR self-defence Committee, to report to the police.

The repercussions of the Polish crisis have long troubled Soviet intellectuals, who fear that any Soviet intervention would lead to an immediate clampdown within the Soviet Union. They argue that in view of the probable world reaction the internal effect would be far more drastic and severe than the tightening-up imposed after Soviet interventions in Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan.

Already Soviet publications have gone on the propaganda offensive to prepare party ideologists and political activists for any crisis.

## Black nurse barred from treating white

From Ray Kennedy  
Johannesburg, March 9

Mr David Neppa, a Johannesburg city councillor whose father-in-law died in hospital of a heart attack after officials had forbidden a black nursing sister to attend him, today challenged Mr Pieter Botha, the prime minister, to put his apartheid ideology before his health.

His father-in-law, Mr Joe Esrock, aged 73, died last night in the Johannesburg general hospital. Mr Neppa said he was asked to tend a private nurse because of a staff shortage.

"I could not find a white nurse but three black nurses were available," he said.

## Iranians told club-wielders trying to seize power

Tehran, March 9.—President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, under heavy attack from his political enemies, called on the Iranian people today to smash attempts at establishing the rule of law.

In a strongly worded statement in the newspaper he controls, the President accused his opponents of planning the violence, which left at least 45 people injured at a rally he addressed last Thursday.

"They want to establish the sovereignty of clubs over people at any cost. It is the duty of the people to resist with their full power and to smash the clubs, club-wielders and their supporters," he declared.

Ayatollah Sadegh Khalkhali, the former head of revolutionary tribunals, said yesterday that the President should be put on trial on grounds of treason against constitutional law for ordering security forces to quell disturbances at the rally. Mr Muhammad Ali Rajai, the Prime Minister, accused Mr

Bani-Sadr of trying to form a rival government.

But Mr Bani-Sadr replied today: "Those club-wielders were insulting the President and hence the nation for 45 minutes, but I did not show any reaction until they started throwing stones and pieces of iron. Then I asked the police to intervene, and when I realized they were unable to stop the chaos, I asked the people to restore order."

The incident at the rally set off a chain of protests. Muslim extremists, opponents of the President tried to close the Tehran bazaar yesterday, while minor demonstrations were reported in Qom, Isfahan, Rasht and other cities.

More serious incidents occurred in Lahijan, near the Caspian Sea, where left-wing radicals were reported to have tried to declare the town's independence from Tehran. A local newspaper reported calm today after four days of clashes and conflicts.—Reuter.

## Islamabad would sanction force against hijackers

Continued from page 1

ded by the hijackers during their long flight from Kabul to Damascus.

Their list included: the immediate release of the family of Mr Salamullah Khan and the Muramandi, the proposed surge from Pakistani jails; the ending of the Pakistan Government's "propaganda campaign" against the Zulfikar organization; and the release of all Zulfikar members from prison.

The hijackers said that when the Pakistan Government agreed to the demands, they would present a specific list of names of those to be released and the destination to which they eventually wanted to be flown.

There was no sign this evening, however, that any of the gunmen had asked for the aircraft to be refuelled.

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## Solidarity leader hopeful of averting strike

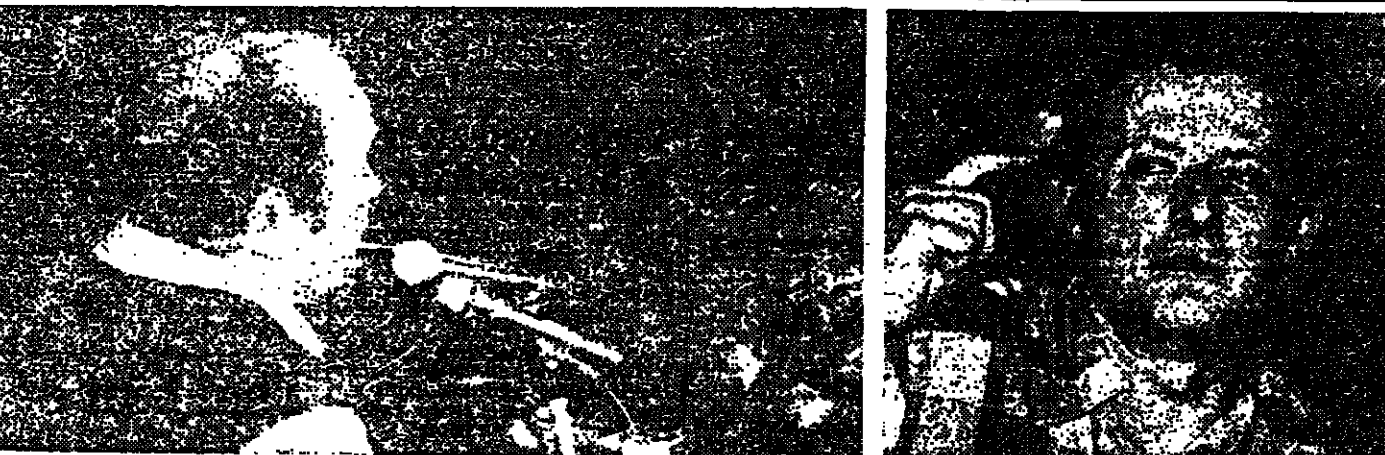
Warsaw, March 9.—Mr Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity free trade union organization, emerged from talks with Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the deputy Prime Minister, tonight and indicated that a way would be found to avert a threatened strike in the textile producing city of Lodz.

Mr Walesa said he would meet General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, for the first time in Warsaw tomorrow evening. "We will discuss all outstanding problems."

He said local officials were talking in Lodz tonight in an attempt to avert a threatened one-hour stoppage in protest against the refusal of the authorities to reinstate five workers dismissed from an Interior Ministry hospital.

Mr Walesa spent nearly three hours in talks with Mr Rakowski, a liberal journalist appointed by the Prime Minister to handle relations between the Government and Solidarity. Afterwards he said: "I am satisfied."

General Jaruzelski took over as Prime Minister nearly four weeks ago. He called for a 90-day strike truce when he took office, but a series of local and national disputes have since emerged to threaten the fragile peace.—Reuter.



Mr Jacek Kuron, left, the KOR leader addressing Warsaw students; and Mr Adam Michnik, a KOR member.

## Russia blames KOR leader for Polish crisis

By Richard Davy

The Russians do not believe in spontaneity. Behind every event they look for someone conspiring, organizing or pulling strings.

They seem to have decided that the Polish troubles can be blamed largely on Mr Jacek Kuron, one of the leaders of the Social Self-Defence Committee (KOR), whom they accuse of manipulating the new unions and hiding himself manipulated from the West. Last week he was officially warned that he might face serious charges.

The Russians are wrong because KOR is only one of many influences at work and is in any case not the personal property of Mr Kuron. More over its influence has been largely on the side of realism and moderation.

It grew out of the Workers' Self-Defence Committee which brought together people of many different political persuasions to help workers persecuted after the strikes of 1976. When the workers were arrested it changed its name and continued to function as a

pressure group and source of information and ideas.

Some of its members, notably Mr Adam Michnik, who was arrested, received the same warning as Mr Kuron but was protected by workers, have propagated for some years the idea that the system can no longer be reformed from inside but has to be replaced by an organized pressure group from workers and society as a whole.

Mr Kuron, who was born in 1934, has been active in political opposition since he was expelled from the party in

1964. He was then a lecturer. Together with Mr Karol Modzelewski, now a spokesman for Solidarity, the free trade union organization, he wrote an open letter to party members saying that the system had deviated from Marxism by handing power to a monopolistic party instead of to the working class.

He was sent to prison for three years. When he emerged he gradually broadened his left-wing views to find common ground with the church and other intellectuals.

New York, March 9.—Dr Kurt Waldheim, secretary-general of the United Nations reopened the Law of the Sea Conference here today and voiced deep regret over the Reagan Administration's decision to delay completion of an international sea law treaty.

The decision, compounded by the dismissal of the top American negotiator, has provoked anger among Third World nations and raised fears in the United States allies that the treaty might be jeopardized if the Administration insisted on reopening negotiations on deep-

sea mining provisions of a draft treaty.

One official said the reaction to the American move among many of the delegations could be summed up in one word—dismay.

Dr Waldheim told delegates from more than 150 countries that he had expected negotiations to have been completed this session.

He adjourned the meeting to give the 40-nation Asian group more time to nominate a new candidate for president in succession to Mr Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe of Sri Lanka. AP.



## HOME NEWS

# M5 rapist' is jailed for life after admitting 16 offences

John Richard Gerald Lambe, 37, was sentenced to life imprisonment for 16 offences of rape and sexual assault on a woman in the West Country in a "series of attacks on a woman" challenge to the law, the Crown Court yesterday. A builder aged 37, of Queens Road, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, he was given a life sentence on each of 16 counts of rape and concurrent six-year sentences on four charges of attempted rape. He admitted the offences.

The court was told that one of the victims was Mrs. M. B. Lambe, 42, who was raped in 1975 for a year. She was then raped by her husband, who was later found guilty of the offence. Mrs. Lambe was then raped by her husband, who was later found guilty of the offence.

Mr. Justice Bingham said Mr. Lambe's victims were mostly young women and girls. He said he had no doubt that Mr. Lambe was a dangerous man and that he was not dealing with just one person. He said Mr. Lambe was a "very dangerous man" and that he was not dealing with just one person. He said Mr. Lambe was a "very dangerous man" and that he was not dealing with just one person.

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## Drug captain challenges the courts

The jurisdiction of the High Court was challenged yesterday by lawyers representing the captain and crew of the ship involved in a Channel chase last Thursday.

Reporting restrictions were lifted when the seamen appeared before Leeds magistrates, East Sussex.

Along with the ship's company of eight there appeared six Lancashire men. All were landed in custody until next Sunday.

Mr. John Harper, representing Antonius Adrianus Olijhoek, captain, and two Dutch crew members, told the court that three sets of waters were involved in the chase. The first was in the English Channel, the second was in the North Sea, and the third was in the Atlantic Ocean.

It was not suggested, he said, that the British customs officers boarded the tug it was in English waters, but it was his clients' contention that the matter started and ended in English waters. He said the ship was in English waters when it was boarded by the customs officers.

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## In brief

### Producers seek Equity talks

The producers of the West End variety show *That's Showbiz* are seeking a meeting with Equity, the actors' union, in an attempt to resolve the dispute over Sunday performances of the show before the High Court on Friday.

Despite the injunction obtained by the producers, Kendall-Lane Productions, last Thursday, the performance last Sunday failed to go ahead.

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Vauxhall Manor School, London, has in its classes (from the left) Cypriot, Jamaican, Anglo-Indian and Guyanese pupils.

## Concern for minorities in multiracial schools

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

Concern about the lack of suitable provision for white children in multiracial schools and for coloured children in predominantly white schools is expressed in a report published by the Schools Council yesterday.

The report gives the results of the first large-scale investigation of local education authorities' and schools' policies and practices in multi-ethnic education in the past 10 years. The study was carried out by Professor Alan Little and Dr Richard Willey of Goldsmiths' College, London.

More than half the head teachers involved in the survey in schools with a third or more pupils from ethnic minorities drew attention to the special needs of their white pupils, many emphasizing that those needs tended to be ignored.

The report quotes one headmaster as saying: "We have to be careful that [ethnic minority] children with language problems who are not truly remedial do not swamp the remedial provision which should be coping with true remedial problems."

Three quarters of schools surveyed said that in-service courses for teachers on multi-ethnic education should cover the needs of white children in multiracial schools, and more than half considered that present in-service courses did not do so.

The survey showed that there have been significant developments in multi-ethnic education over the past decade, particularly in the widespread acceptance in multiracial areas of the need to make special arrangements for ethnic minorities. However, the size of the response was still wholly out of proportion to the magnitude of the task.

In practice, actual provision was largely restricted to meeting the basic language requirements of children whose mother tongue was not English, the report says. There had been notably little advance in assessing and meeting the needs of West Indian children, or of providing more advanced English language courses.

The report identifies an important change in central government policy over the past 20 years, away from the view that immigrant pupils would somehow be assimilated into the system without the introduction of any special measures, to a recognition that Britain had become a

multi-ethnic society and that that fact had implications for all schools, whether or not they had any pupils from ethnic minorities.

In authorities with a high proportion of coloured pupils, emphasis in curriculum development had shifted from the insertion of special additions into the timetable such as "black studies", to an attempt to introduce a multi-ethnic dimension to all subjects. But little was being done in largely all-white areas.

Half of the head teachers in schools with a high concentration of ethnic minority pupils complained that public examination requirements restricted their ability to develop a curriculum which reflected a multi-ethnic society.

The report calls for a clear policy statement from central Government on education for a multi-ethnic society; identification and dissemination of good practice; provision of resources for in-service training and curriculum development; and encouragement for ethnic minorities to participate in education.

Multi-ethnic education, the report says, by Alan Little and Richard Willey, Schools Council pamphlet 18, (Schools Council, 160 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6LL.)

## Whitehall brief: How a 1949 crisis escaped press coverage

### Beyond the public eye, an abyss

By Peter Hennessey

Any specialist journalist worth his salt is faintly obsessed about the amount of information he misses, week in, week out in the course of treading his beat. For the Whitehall watcher it takes the form of wondering over what is going on in all those secret Cabinet committees, the rarely penetrated hidden heart of the Government where so much high policy is shaped, away from the eyes of Parliament and the public.

An invitation to address the annual dinner of the Leicester University history society on the subject of "newspapers and history" is calculated to bring on a severe attack of the "how much have I failed to discover" syndrome. The late Mr. Philip Graham, a leading authority on the subject of "newspapers and history", was the guest of honour at the dinner.

As the Prime Minister is unlikely to entertain a request for a speech on the subject of "newspapers and history", the subject of the dinner is calculated to bring on a severe attack of the "how much have I failed to discover" syndrome. The late Mr. Philip Graham, a leading authority on the subject of "newspapers and history", was the guest of honour at the dinner.

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Newsmen knew of the existence of EPC. The *Financial Times* even mentioned it by name on June 28. The *Daily Telegraph* and *The Times* reported on the day that it had been set up, which suggests that the lobby correspondents had been briefed up to a point by the No 10 press office. But the line put out on June 27 to the lobby, and not questioned subsequently by any journalist, was, in the words of the *Manchester Guardian* political correspondent (and imitated almost verbatim in the other qualities) that "the Chancellor already has the full backing for the policy he is pursuing and there is no sign of any change at the moment."

Two days later EPC went into its agonized marathon session. The gap between what was going on and what the press said was happening is, in many ways, the most revealing feature of the 1949-Our private system of government has become slightly more public thanks to "moles" and more systematic specialist journalism. Ironically, the day before the "crunch" meeting of EPC, the papers reported the findings of the Royal Commission on the Press which went to the heart of the matter.

The evidence put before us does not suggest that up to now any harmful influence is being exerted on the press through information services; but if newspapers get out of the habit of finding their own news, and into the habit of taking all or most of it unquestioningly from a government department, they are in a very real sense becoming more competitive.

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## Lord Kagan to appeal on sentence

Lord Kagan, aged 65, jailed for 10 months last December on theft and false accounting charges, is to seek leave on Friday to appeal against his sentence.

The application by the Lithuanian-born businessman, who founded the Gannex textile group after he arrived in England in 1946, will be heard by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, and two other judges in the Court of Appeal in London.

Lord Kagan, who was also disqualified from company directorship for three years by Mr Justice Smith at Leeds Crown Court on December 12, will not be brought to London from Rudgegate prison, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, where he is serving his sentence.

He had pleaded guilty to stealing drums of indigo dye from his company, Kagan Textiles Ltd, and falsifying accounts. A £105,000 fine also imposed at the crown court was later reduced by Mr Justice Smith to £35,000.

The judges will also hear an application by Cellofoam (Yorkshire) Ltd, against its £375,000 fine for conspiracy to defraud.

Lord Kagan's son, Michael, aged 30, and wife, Lady Kagan, aged 56, were acquitted of all charges by direction of the judge. Also acquitted was Raymond Kennedy, aged 54, and Tolya Ginsburg, aged 55.

Lord Kagan has homes in Fyvie Road, Huddersfield, and at Barmston, near Halifax.

## Two saved after 16 hours adrift

A couple who spent over 16 hours bailing out their damaged sailing dinghy were towed safely into Lochboisdale, in South Uist, Outer Hebrides yesterday morning by the fishing boat *Annie Maria*.

Mr Donald MacPhee, aged 24, a boat builder, and Nurse Anne MacDonald, aged 24, both of South Uist, were twice nearly run down by cargo boats.

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## OVERSEAS

## Foster father watches sex murderer die in electric chair

Michigan City, Indiana, March 9—Steven Judy, insisting that he wanted to die and showing no remorse for killing a young mother and drowning her three children, was electrocuted early today.

The warden of Indiana State Prison ordered the switch to be pulled that sent 2,300 volts of electricity through the condemned man, who was strapped and clamped in the chair. He was pronounced dead at 11 minutes after midnight.

Mr Judy, aged 24, who said he would rather die than spend his life in prison, was the fourth man executed in the United States since a 10-year moratorium on capital punishment ended with Gary Gilmore's death before a Utah firing squad in January 1977.

His execution left 731 persons on death rows in American prisons. About 100 opponents and 200 supporters of capital punishment demonstrated last night outside the penitentiary on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Mr Judy, who had been moved to a special cell 13 steps from the electric chair, told prison officials that he was "calm and stable" as his death approached.

He was reported, however, to have broken down and cried when he was visited by his foster parents and their three teenage children. His foster father was present at the execution at his request.

His last words were to prison officers: "I don't hold no grudges," he said. "This is my doing—sorry it happened."

It was in late April, 1979, when Mr Judy faked a car breakdown in Michigan City

and asked for help from a passer-by, Mrs Terry Chasteen, a 24-year-old divorcee.

When she stopped he bundled her into the car with her three children, aged five, four and two, and drove them to a lonely lane 10 miles outside the city. There he raped the women, then strangled her and drowned the children in a half-frozen pond. He was arrested the next day.

He warned the jury at his trial: "You better vote for the death penalty because if you don't I will get out and it may be one of you next, or your family... That goes for you too, judge."

Hours before his execution, he said of what he had done: "I don't love sleep over it, it's just something that happened. I'm not sorry for the things I've done. I've lived the only way I know how."

The death row population is increasing steadily, mainly in the southern states.

Thirty-three states have the death penalty. Of these, 15 use the electric chair, nine have the gas chamber, four use hanging, four administer lethal injections, while Utah uses a firing squad.

Florida has the biggest death row population—155 men and one woman. Texas is second, with 153 men and two women, followed by Georgia, California, Oklahoma, Alabama, Arizona and Illinois.

Actual executions are rare. Until today, Gary Gilmore, Jesse Bishop and John Spinklin were the only men to be executed in the United States since 1967. Among them, Spinklin alone fought to avoid execution—UPI, Agence France-Presse and AP.

## Hangman kept busy in Malaysia jails

From M. G. G. Pillai  
Kuala Lumpur, March 9

Malaysia has executed nine young men in the past fortnight under a controversial law that restricts the rights of the accused as Malaysian lawyers, arguing that the death penalty is no deterrent to violent crimes, urged the Government to reprieve them.

But the Government's position is clear. Capital punishment will remain on the books and will be carried out should the Pardons Board reject the final automatic clemency appeal.

Malaysia resumed executions after more than a decade in March last year, and 20 men have been hanged since. Of the 50 now awaiting execution, 11 have exhausted their legal appeals and have one final hope in the Pardons Board. But it rarely interferes and legal sources say only that five death sentences have been commuted in the past two years.

Malaysia already has the highest proportion of being among the countries which have the most number of offences carrying the death penalty.

What worries lawyers here is that it is often the luck of the draw (or a compassionate public prosecutor) that decides whether their convicted clients go to jail or the gallows.

The law under which most of them are condemned is the Internal Security Act, enacted specially to deal with those involved in the banned Malaysian Communist Party but since amended to include others only vaguely connected with national security.

This law does away with the common law burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt in criminal cases, imposing in its place the civil law balance of probabilities.

It also shifts the burden of proof from the prosecution to the accused. The Government argues that there is nothing unusual in this since this is already so under French law. But, as lawyers point out, in those countries where the police, conducts investigations.

The Act also allows prosecution witnesses to remain hooded

and their identities protected while giving evidence in court. It is enough for the prosecution to prove that the gun was in your car, even if you did not know about it, to earn you the death sentence.

Under the Act the accused cannot plead mitigating circumstances and the death penalty is mandatory. Of the 20 hanged since March last year, five were communists, one a drug trafficker, one a murderer and the rest common criminals.

Sometimes, the law can cause injustices. A 12-year-old schoolboy got the death sentence in 1977 for having a pistol in a plastic bag which he said was given to him to be given to someone else. He was reprieved and is now at an approved school.

No action was taken in another case, however, when a 12-year-old son of a Malaysian Cabinet Minister shot dead a neighbour's son with a pistol.

A man with an unlicensed gun can be charged under any of three laws, but the public prosecutor tends to favour the Internal Security Act because the work for him is made considerably easier.

Other offences which provide for the death penalty include drug trafficking, murder, armed robbery with violence and those rarely encountered like mutiny and treason. In some of these cases, a lesser penalty often means a mandatory whipping and a life sentence means life in prison for one's natural life.

But at least one case a man acquitted of a lesser charge was retried for the same offence under the Internal Security Act and condemned.

But after imposing the sentences, legal sources say, the authorities then began squawking about any publicity surrounding the executions.

When local newspapers did highlight the executions, they were ordered to tone down their coverage. Official sources say this is because many of those condemned were Chinese—only one of the 20 hanged was a non-Chinese—and this could create political problems.

## Sea hunt for 21 under way again

Hamilton, Bermuda, March 9—The search for 21 missing crew from the sunken Israeli cargo ship *Merenda* resumed at dawn today with Navy and coastguard aircraft sweeping an area south-east of Bermuda.

The search was suspended during the night for fear of rescue boats hitting survivors clinging to lifeboats and debris in 24ft waves and 60mph winds. Three crew are dead and 17 others have been rescued—UPI.

## Largest diamond sold for \$12m

Abu Dhabi, March 9—The world's largest diamond, the 170-carat *Etoile de la Paix* (the Star of Peace), has been sold for \$12m (about £5.5m) by Mrs Saleem-Amina Muhammad, the financial adviser who arranged the sale, said here today that it was sold by Mr Manfred Horowitz, its Swiss owner.

The diamond weighed more than 500 carats when it was discovered five years ago in central Africa—Agence France-Presse.

## Thai hint of armed forces' intervention in crisis

From Neil Kelly  
Bangkok, March 9

Five days after half his Cabinet resigned, General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Thai Prime Minister, is still trying to form a new government. In the meantime caretaker ministers are in charge of some of the most important ministries.

General Prem had a special audience of the King and Queen today to discuss the political impasse with them; but no early settlement of the crisis, which began with a dispute over oil supplies three weeks ago, is in sight.

Excessive demands for Cabinet places by one of the big political parties have obstructed General Prem's efforts to form a new coalition, according to Dr

Tirong Suwanakiri, one of the Prime Minister's advisers.

He gave the first hint of possible military intervention when he said: "If political parties cannot serve the people's interests that is the end. We may have to dissolve Parliament and if some parties still present obstacles we may need to resort to violence." He said that line of thinking was supported by several "senior military men".

Because the upper house of the National Assembly is appointed and has many military officers as members, General Prem can count on the continuing support of Parliament as a whole; but he also is anxious to be seen to have the support of the elected lower house.

## Right to win a stamp for Mumbles

Long before Mr William Husson, the member for Liverpool, was ungracious enough to the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway stepping in front of the cket, becoming the first passenger to be killed in a railway accident, the Swansea and Mumbles Railway had been carefully pursuing its business. In fact, it had been going 23 years.

It was no surprise, therefore, at historians, parliamentarians, and the Post Office Users' Council for Wales responded to indignation when last year the Post Office issued a stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of the railway line, claiming it as "the world's first regular passenger-carrying line".

Since then the Post Office has published apologies in ecclesiastical publications; the council is pressing for public apology to "recognise that it considers as 'a gross

## Regional report

### Tim Jones Swansea

injustice to the people of Wales."

Mr Cliff Taylor, the chairman of the council's stamp committee, said: "What is particularly annoying is that we had informed the Post Office in 1978 of its mistake but it chose to ignore the facts. Since then we have been trying to get it to issue a stamp next year commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Mumbles line, but the Post Office has refused to consider this."

The Mumbles Railway was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1804 and began carrying passengers on the seven

mile route from Swansea on March 25, 1807.

Originally, the coach was pulled along the tracks by a horse but it was to have six other means of propulsion, including sail, before it was closed 20 years ago.

In its correction published in January in the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly* the Post Office said that the Liverpool and Manchester Railway stamp "should have been more precisely described as the world's first steam-powered regular passenger and mail-carrying railway."

Mr Ronald Dearing, Post Office chairman, explained why his organization would not issue a stamp to commemorate the Mumbles line. "We do not usually mark anniversaries which are not in multiples of 50 years, except for royal occasions."

Far from being over, the fight to have a commemorative stamp next year is growing.

## Owners of former Coral casino lose licence plea

A crown court judge yesterday dismissed appeals by







## OVERSEAS

## Britain rejects EEC compromise plan for coastal fisheries

By Hugh Clayton  
Agriculture Correspondent

British ministers said yesterday that they would not compromise on their demand for large Continental waters to be kept out of a belt between 12 and 50 miles from the northern coast of Britain.

That was made clear yesterday to Mr Gaston Thörn, President of the European Commission, who had postponed a meeting of Community fisheries ministers by 24 hours in order to seek a compromise between the French and British positions.

He spent an hour at the RAF Northolt airport before leaving for Paris. Mr Thörn and Mr George Kontogeorgis, EEC Commissioner for Fisheries, met Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture.

Mr Walker told the Commission that the common fisheries policy would have to include a rule forbidding all fishing boats more than 80ft long from entering the 12 to 50 mile belt stretching from Flamborough Head in the east round the whole of Scotland to some point on the Irish Sea coast in north-west England.

Mr Walker also insisted that any common fisheries agreement would be rejected by Britain unless it was a permanent framework within

which operating rules could be changed to fit new stocking or consumption patterns.

He repeated British claims to exclusive fishing rights within 12 miles of the coast of the United Kingdom with some areas open to foreign penetration on the basis of traditional fishing activity.

EEC reformers, alarmed by the danger that the fisheries dispute, if allowed to drag on, could complicate this year's negotiations on EEC farm prices and the planned reform of the Community's finances, Mr Thörn decided last week to intervene personally to underline the political importance of an early solution (Michael Hornsby writes from Brussels).

The Northolt meeting came hard on the heels of the adoption last week by the Commission of new proposals on the issue of coastal access, which are regarded in Whitehall as completely inadequate.

By contrast, the French take the view that they have made a big concession by being prepared even to discuss the prohibition of the existing 12-mile limit, which they hold to be no more granted by Britain at the time of EEC entry. The French are totally opposed to any restrictions whatever beyond the 12 miles.

## French strike ripples through education

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, March 9

French education is in for a rough week, starting today with a protest by primary and secondary school teachers.

They went on strike for the day against the new "school map" which allocates staff in accordance with population changes.

They are also angry about the closing down of classes and teaching posts and, above all, about salaries. The changes decided by the Government a few weeks ago benefit only young teachers entering the profession in the autumn of next year—about 4,500 out of a total of nearly 300,000.

Tomorrow teachers in technical colleges stage a stoppage and on Wednesday the European Committee of Education personnel will demonstrate in front of the Parliament in Strasbourg against the general cut in education budgets.

On Thursday, a national strike has been called in the universities and on Friday teachers in professional training centres take their own action.

Today's stoppage is the first big strike by teachers since the two-day strikes in April last year.

Between 75 and 90 per cent of the primary school teachers—according to various estimates—observed the strike call. It meant no classes or cancellations in many of the most schools in Paris and the provinces. The strike action was less widespread in secondary schools.

M. Christian Beullac, the Minister of Education, said in a broadcast this morning that the strike was political and ritual in character because it had been decided three months ago. "It is a case of the socialist majority of the SNJ showing the communist minority that it can be tough in defending its members' interests."

He was asked whether teachers, who now receive 3,600 francs (about £326) a month when they leave teachers' training college, and 5,800 francs at the end of their career, fared poorly.

## 150 bodies to be exhumed

Oslo, March 9.—The director of an old people's home was charged today with the murder of a patient and a court granted police permission to exhume the bodies of 150 former patients.

Arnfriid Nesset, aged 44, was alleged to have poisoned the patient with curare, a drug used to paralyse the motor nerves, at the home in Orkdal, Central Norway.—UPI.

## Canada a test for Reagan rhetoric

From David Cross  
Washington, March 9

When Mr Reagan leaves Washington tomorrow for his first trip outside the United States as President he will discover that his election dream of forging a close relationship with America's northern neighbour is not as simple as his campaign rhetoric might have suggested.

During two days of talks with Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, and senior Canadian officials, Mr Reagan will be discussing such thorny topics as American involvement in El Salvador, East Coast fishing rights, a new gas pipeline from Alaska, and the problem of acid rain pollution.

Most of these mundane but important themes were not exactly in mind when during his year-long quest for the presidency he suggested a special pact to improve cooperation among the three North American nations (including Mexico).

But it is with America's touchy neighbour that he is likely to be the long-running dispute between the two countries over fishing rights off New England.

the ratification of a treaty between the two countries, that he does not want the problem to remain in diplomatic limbo for ever. He believes, however, that the pact should be renegotiated with Ottawa to take account of the objections of American fishermen.

The Canadians are almost as irritated by the failure of the United States to start even preliminary work on an Alaska gas pipeline which will traverse Canadian territory.

They have started construction work on the section, but are afraid that if Mr Reagan lifts price controls on American natural gas, as he is likely to, this would price Alaskan gas out of the market.

On the foreign policy front, the most significant differences between Mr Reagan and Mr Trudeau focus on Washington's recent decision to increase the number of military advisers being sent to El Salvador. The Canadian leader told Parliament in Ottawa last week that he disagreed with the move.

In addition to his talks with Canadian Government leaders, Mr Reagan will attend a state dinner at Government House tomorrow night after a gala performance at Ottawa's National Arts Centre.

On Wednesday he will meet with Mr Clark, the leader of the

Parliament. He will be accompanied for his two-day visit by Mrs Nancy Reagan, Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and Mr Dolores Reagan, the Secretary of the Treasury.

The last American president to visit Canada was Mr Richard Nixon and that was nearly 10 years ago. Former President Carter was planning to go to Ottawa during the closing stages of his presidency, but his visit was postponed because of the Iranian hostage crisis.

Although Mr Reagan and Mr Trudeau hold different political beliefs, the White House has great hopes that the two men will get on.

As Mr Reagan explained during a press conference last week, his main goal is to set the stage for ministerial negotiations on the difficult issues which divide their countries. In this he hopes to be as successful as he was when he got on so well with President José López Portillo, of Mexico, just before he took office.

**Baby heart surgery**  
Johannesburg, March 9.—South African surgeons today carried out a successful open heart operation on a baby girl who was less than 24 hours old. Dr Peter Colson said he and his colleagues operated to

the ratification of a treaty between the two countries, that he does not want the problem to remain in diplomatic limbo for ever. He believes, however, that the pact should be renegotiated with Ottawa to take account of the objections of American fishermen.

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menschen  
Zukunft CDU

Herr Kohl opens the congress with a hand bell. On his left is Herr Heiner Geissler, secretary-general of the party.

## Christian Democrats score a boring success

From Patricia Clough  
Mannheim, March 9

The Christian Democrats' party congress today became just what its leaders wanted—deadly boring. Herr Helmut Kohl, the CDU chairman, alerted delegates in his opening speech against any tactics that would swing public attention from the difficulties of the SPD-FDP coalition.

The CDU is deliberately lying low while the SPD is obligingly tearing itself apart over the problems of the moment. The opposition feels that the wind from the storms in the coalition is gradually filling its own sails.

Some members are urging the leadership to capitalize on the coalition's plight with harder opposition, but Herr Kohl has refused. He said in an interview today that his party must not give the impression that "its tongue is hanging out for power".

Instead, the leadership carefully calculated today what it hoped was a refreshing picture of unity in the opposition. None of the big issues, such as nuclear energy or arms exports—on which their members are also divided—was up for discussion.

So dull was the agenda that the organizers had to arrange for a somewhat artificial debate on housing problems just to show that the party is capable of internal discussion.

Herr Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Bavarian Christian Social Union was brought on to deliver more than an hour of rhetorical fireworks against Herr Helmut Schmidt's Government. Although by nature he would prefer an all-out fight he has been restrained, limiting himself today to saying that the opposition must make itself more effective.

The point of Herr Strauss's

appearance, delegates said, was to demonstrate harmony between the two sister parties. Relations in the past couple of years have been none too easy. Politically, Herr Strauss has now dwindled in importance.

It was the first party congress since the CDU and CSU lost October's elections with Herr Strauss as their candidate for the chancellorship.

The defeat had the welcome effect for the CDU of putting an end once and for all to Herr Strauss's claim to leadership and reducing his ability to make difficulties for Herr Kohl.

It also left Herr Kohl, who had been ousted by Herr Strauss as the opposition's candidate, greatly increased in stature. He was re-elected chairman today by 689 votes to 20. He is setting out to turn the CDU into an effective opposition party.

But the policies he outlined

in his speech today showed little difference from those of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor. He confirmed the party's post-election shift—after years of opposing the Government's Ostpolitik—in favour of détente. He agreed that a balance of power was essential for international security.

He demanded "a more humane and just world policy. The biggest difficulties came on economics and finance in which he attacked state subsidies to firms, state indebtedness and what he considered to be irresponsible spending.

But the real debates were left to another day. The CDU has not discussed why it lost the election, or how it can attract young people and women who have turned their backs on the party.

In the interests of unity Herr Kohl has stifled any inquests

## Accused politician is cheered

From Our Correspondent  
Valletta, March 9

A large crowd cheered Dr Guido de Marco, deputy leader of Malta's opposition Nationalist Party, this morning as he left the court where he faced a charge of making false public accusations against Mr Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister, and the police inspectors.

In court, Dr Anton Desquale, the magistrate, dismissed a police application for the case to proceed with urgency.

The case arises out of a speech Dr de Marco made in which he referred to the arrest of four journalists allegedly for spreading false information in connexion with the throwing of a bomb at a group of industrialists.

Dr de Marco is alleged to have falsely accused the Prime Minister, the Commissioner of Police and two police inspectors of improper acts in the administration of government.

The magistrate reprimanded the government Department of Information for broadcasting news of the police application for the case to be dealt with speedily before Dr de Marco had been notified that such an application would be made.

Yesterday a crowd twice the normal size gathered in his constituency to hear Dr de Marco say that the Government would be forced to muzzle opposition. If any members of the opposition were arrested, others would take over, he said. He was carried shoulder high from the meeting.

## Delhi says states have power of censorship

From Our Correspondent  
Delhi, March 9

After the imposition of press censorship in Assam, the Central Government has pointed out that the states are empowered to do so without consulting Delhi.

All newspapers and journals in Assam have to submit their copy to the state officials before using it. On some occasions the papers have left censored portions blank even at the risk of losing advertisements from the Government and public undertakings.

The matter came before Parliament today because the Assam Government had censured a statement issued by 51 MPs which called for an early solution to the detection and deportation of "foreigners" from the state.

## Chile emergency extended

Santiago, March 9.—President

Augusto Pinochet says he will extend the state of emergency on Wednesday when Chile's new constitution takes effect and he begins an eight-year term.

The move suspends constitutional guarantees for six months and gives the President broad powers he says would be needed "to combat Marxist aggression". The state of emergency has been in effect since 1973, when President Pinochet came to power by ousting Presi-

## Rugby Union

## Blakeway's future is clouded by a doctors' divergence

By Peter West  
Rugby Correspondent

Philip Blakeway, the England tight-head prop who suffered a neck injury in the Irish match, reported yesterday morning that his surgeon, Dr Gloucester, had given him clearance to play against France in the last championship international at Twickenham on Saturday week. However, the national selectors stuck to their declared intention of leaving his position open when announcing an otherwise unchanged side.

The medical evidence about Blakeway seems conflicting. It appears that the Irish doctor, Mick Molloy (a former Ireland lock forward), who made a preliminary examination in Dublin, advised him to pack in rugby for good. This was based on the belief that the tight-head position imposed the greatest strain on the neck—and Blakeway had broken a bone there some years ago, causing him a long absence from the game.

Yet Blakeway's surgeon in Gloucester has compared the latest X-rays with those of his previous more alarming injury, and told him that the pinched nerve suffered in Dublin and much the same effect as a blow on the funny bone.

"It is not surprising that the selectors, insists that before any decision is made by his panel he must have long talks with the RFU's honorary doctor, Leon Walkden. "It is the nature of Blakeway's injury that concerns us," he says. "His history of neck injuries must be cause for concern both for him and for everyone else. Even if he were to play in the French match we should have to consider the wisdom of it very seriously indeed."

There is no doubt that Dr Walkden's views would need to be unreservedly in favour of Blakeway playing before the selectors took such action. An impression remains that they will end up choosing another tighthead centre, Leslie, or even a scrum-half when they name the six reserves next Monday.

Mr Rogers said he had been discussing the matter with the selectors of the England forwards in Dublin, in spite of their difficulties at the scrum when the Welsh were away. The control of wheeled scrums got better and better, he added, and there was a new semblance of a pick-up between Steve Smith and John Scott.

It has been established by the RFU that at least 1,000 forged ground tickets, and excellent forgeries at that, are circulating in France with many of them already sold at inflated prices. The Union has told the French Federation that it has purchased a number of machines to check validity of tickets at the turnstiles. No one with forged tickets will get in, and this makes it not be too far-fetched.

ENGLAND V FRANCE at Twickenham, Saturday, March 14, 7.30 p.m. (BBC). England: 1. J. Carleton (Oxford), 2. J. Carleton (Oxford), 3. J. Carleton (Oxford), 4. J. Carleton (Oxford), 5. J. Carleton (Oxford), 6. J. Carleton (Oxford), 7. J. Carleton (Oxford), 8. J. Carleton (Oxford), 9. J. Carleton (Oxford), 10. J. Carleton (Oxford), 11. J. Carleton (Oxford), 12. J. Carleton (Oxford), 13. J. Carleton (Oxford), 14. J. Carleton (Oxford), 15. J. Carleton (Oxford), 16. J. Carleton (Oxford), 17. J. Carleton (Oxford), 18. J. Carleton (Oxford), 19. J. Carleton (Oxford), 20. J. Carleton (Oxford), 21. J. Carleton (Oxford), 22. J. Carleton (Oxford), 23. J. Carleton (Oxford), 24. J. Carleton (Oxford), 25. J. Carleton (Oxford), 26. J. Carleton (Oxford), 27. J. Carleton (Oxford), 28. J. Carleton (Oxford), 29. J. Carleton (Oxford), 30. J. Carleton (Oxford), 31. J. Carleton (Oxford), 32. J. Carleton (Oxford), 33. J. Carleton (Oxford), 34. J. Carleton (Oxford), 35. J. Carleton (Oxford), 36. J. 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## Scarcely a Sleeping Beauty

London's Docklands is scarcely a Sleeping Beauty, although parts have been lying dormant for the best part of 100 years, and it is tempting to set Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, the latest in a long line of hand-some princes attempting to breathe new life into the area.

Governments and local authorities have begun many efforts in the past to regenerate Docklands, but have failed either for lack of will, lack of money or lack of decision on how it should be done.

In the past four years Sir Horace Cutler, leader of the Greater London Council, has brought a showman's touch to the business, proposing among other things a vast Tivoli Gardens, selling the Isle of Dogs to a Swiss firm, and pressing for the Underground Jubilee Line to penetrate into the heart of Docklands.

Like most other schemes, Sir Horace's have failed to get off the ground, leaving the St Katharine's Dock development on the western extremity of the 5,000 acre area as his main success.

Now, however, there are unmistakable signs that the lady is stirring from her slumbers, and the awakening kiss is being administered by the London Docklands Development Corporation, one of the two urban development corporations designated by Mr Heseltine. The general legislation setting it up has been passed, leaving the details still to be considered by Parliament. Extended hearings by a House of Lords Select Committee into objections to the corporation from the GLC and other local authorities will almost certainly delay the start of its operations, scheduled for April 1.

The corporation's job will be simply to get things done: "act as a single-minded development agency, reclaiming and acquiring on a large scale, land currently ster-

lized in the ownership of public sector corporations".

Public money will be used for pump-priming and to provide the roads, water, sewerage and other necessary amenities, but the main intention is to attract the private sector and allow it to effect the regeneration.

In the past there has been too much interference by bureaucracy, however well intentioned, and also reluctance by some of the public bodies to release land. Under the new scheme, the corporation, assuming it has sufficient funds from the Government, will be able to act as the planning authority for the whole area. With controls relaxed, particularly in the Enterprise zone on the Isle of Dogs which will come into operation later in the year, the opportunity is there to make the dream a reality.

Staff of the corporation strongly believe that demand exists to develop the area, but they are still having to combat a lack of knowledge

about what it is and even exactly where it is—close enough to the centre of London to border the Tower of London.

That is one task for the corporation which, while Parliament is considering the details, cannot do anything but prepare for the future. It emerged in the House of Lords committee hearing last month that the corporation can expect some £30m in the first year for the acquisition of land and £30m for the provision of services—probably ample amounts because of the time it will take to gear up the operation.

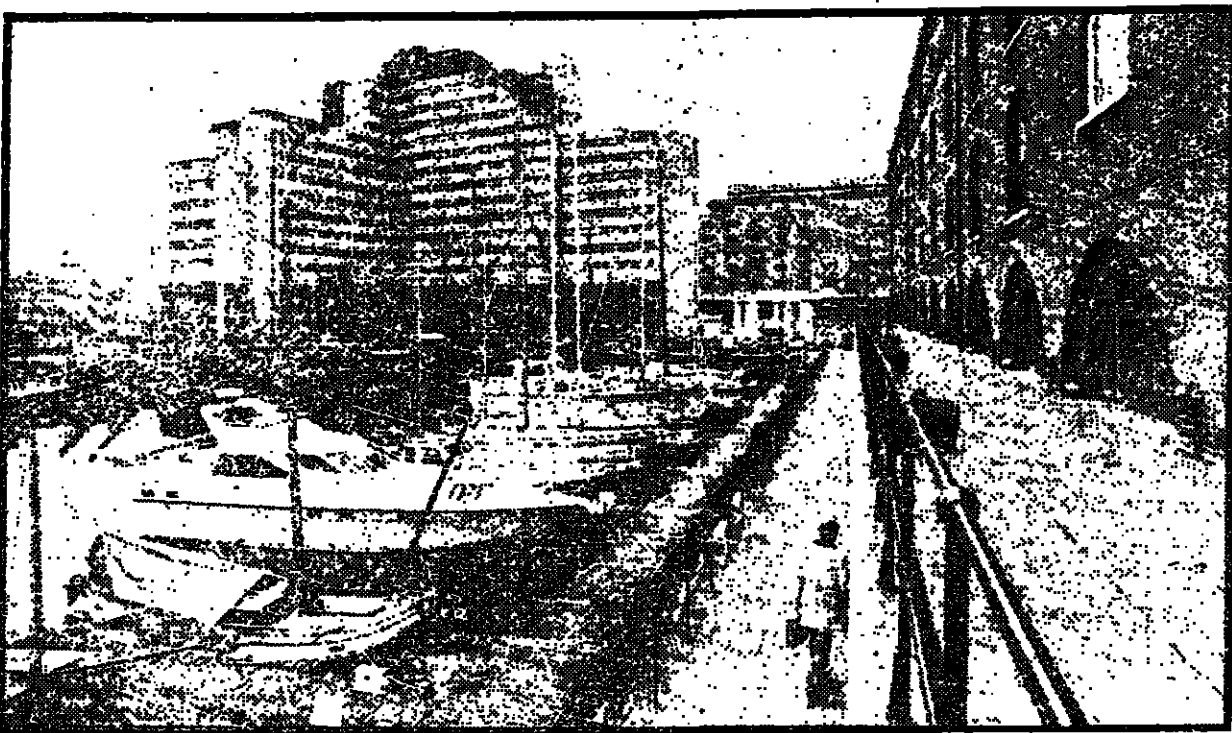
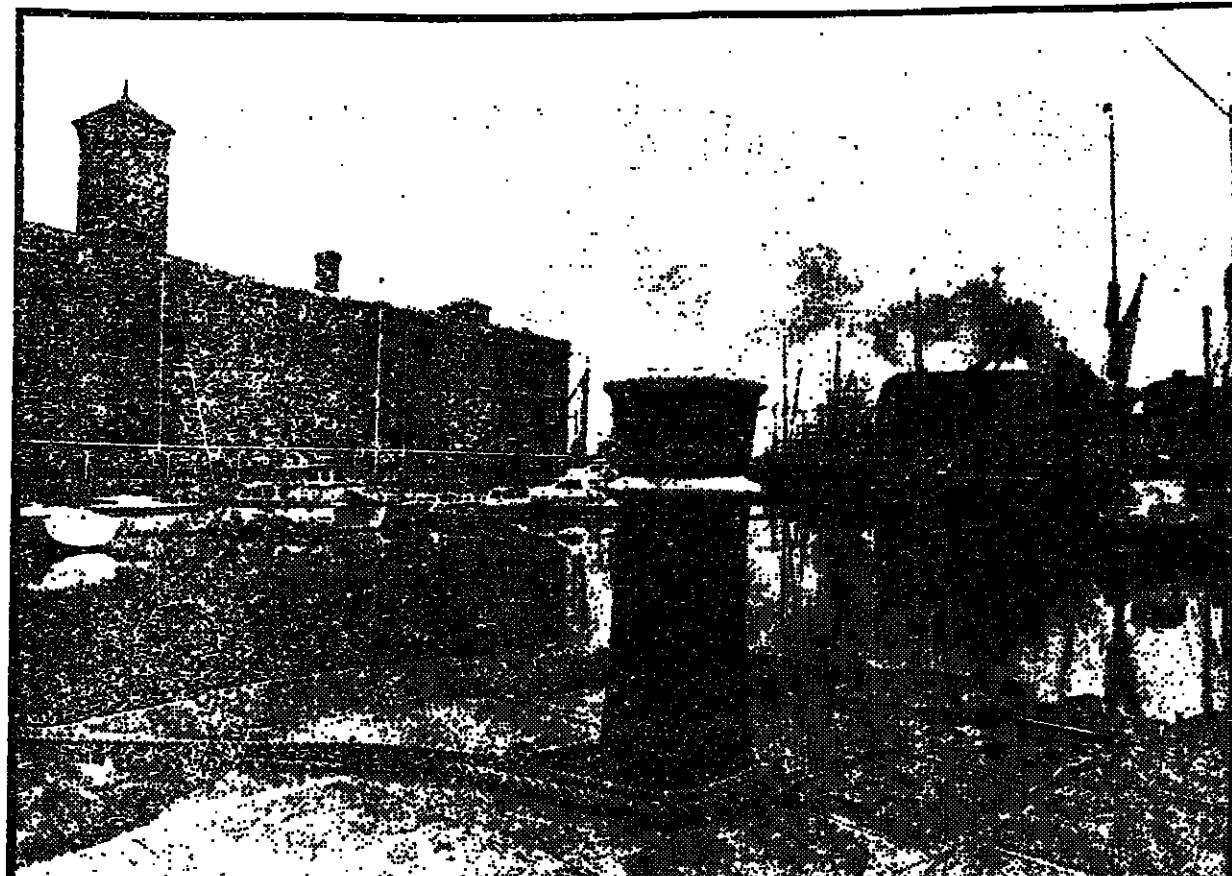
It was originally estimated that about 166m of public money would be spent during 1979-83, and one suggestion was that the entire cost of this vast project would be £2,500m.

The economic climate is not helpful at present, but already developments are under way. Newspapers—the International Daily Telegraph and Associated

Newspapers groups—are acquiring sites. The new Billingsgate fishmarket is planned, a huge market scheme for the Surrey docks in which Lysander group will provide an exhibition centre, offices, shopping centre, hotel and 22 flats and houses, has been approved.

Communications remain a difficult issue. Extension of the Jubilee Line is doomed for the foreseeable future, which is not too disastrous for the manufacturing concerns coming in because road schemes are going ahead, but in the long term it is considered vital to provide links with projects housing and offices. Lack of them might threaten the success of what may well be the most important single urban renewal project of this century's last decade.

**Christopher Warmar**  
Local Newspaper Correspondent



Sir Horace Cutler's big success: St Katharine's Dock.

## Putting a beat back in the heartland

There has never been any shortage of ideas to improve the sad image of Merseyside, nor of organizations charged with the task of trying to carry them out. Recently the problem has been to make them work and find the necessary money.

There is cynicism about the creation next month of yet another organization, the Merseyside Development Corporation, which will be similar to a New Town Development Corporation, but will be superimposed on existing local authorities which have been grappling with the same problems for many years.

The new corporation's prime task will be to revive the real heartlands of Merseyside in both geographical and social terms—the docks areas covering about 850 acres on both sides of the river and including the Liverpool South Docks zone which has become a derelict eyesore

since genuine maritime trading ceased there 15 years ago.

An embryo organization established last year to "shadow" the project until parliamentary approval was formalized. Mr Basil Bean, the chief executive, is in no doubt about the size of the task ahead.

The chances of increasing, or even restoring, relative recent levels of the conventional shipping trade in the river are minimal, given the trend towards bigger and bigger bulk carriers and container ships, and the preference for east coast ports in the general European context.

The first steps planned—improvement of the back-up land inshore of the still derelict docks—will be relatively easy. The thinking at present is that much dock-related industry could be attracted to this area by a general cleaning

programme and the improvement of road links to the important and excellent motorway system of North-west England.

On the West, or Wirral peninsula, side of the river the problems are largely geographical; the complex of tidal inlets and docks demanding some expensive civil engineering if the essential road communications are to be improved.

The South Docks area is likely to remain the most intractable problem, although there is no shortage of ideas, extending from expansion of the highly successful Maritime Museum to the plan to convert the Albert Dock complex into a trade and export centre. This plan was recently the subject of a public inquiry.

Many staunch and loyal Liverpoolians have for about 10 years pursued the dream of creating something resembling the St Katharine's Dock project at Tower

Bridge, London, pointing to the worldwide increase in maritime archaeology interest and the fact that such a development could turn the whole of neglected Merseyside into a paying tourist centre.

The real problem is where the money is to come from, even though the would-be developer of the Albert Dock complex has said he is prepared to put £20m into it and believes he could create between 5,000 and 7,000 new jobs. His firm is Gerald Zisman Associates Ltd. Not much is known about him or his financial status. Questions on that subject were ruled out of order by the inspector at the recent public inquiry.

Mr Bean, formerly general manager of the Northampton Development Corporation, foresees his organization being relatively small in terms of manpower, high in terms of cost effectiveness and, above all, flexible, encouraging and coordinating good ideas rather than drawing up a vast master plan and employing armies of architects and engineers.

Three other significant "shadow" appointments were also made last year: Mr Leslie Young, chairman of J. Bibby and Sons, a chairman; Sir Kenneth Thompson, chairman of Merseyside County Council as vice-chairman; and Mr Rodney Corrie, the former chief civil servant in the North-west region, an adviser.

The corporation should have become fully operational by January but parliamentary procedures have already delayed its official creation twice. As unemployment figures continue to rise there is a fairly strong feeling on Merseyside that there should be no more administrative delays in London.

**John Chartre**

## More private investment needed

continued from previous page

is a semi-detached house with a garden, is absurd. Howard was a good and enlightened man, but Letchworth garden city is not everyone's idea of paradise.

All the evidence indicates that there are large numbers of people who still enjoy living in cities. They like being close to their work, to the big shops, to restaurants and theatres.

That may seem to reflect a middle class approach, which to some extent it does. But an urban renaissance will not come about simply through building more council estates, subsidized factories and workshops, and municipal squash courts and swimming pools. It is curious that the same people who

criticize the middle classes for sending their children to private schools, instead of helping to raise standards and create a better social balance in their local communities, inveigh against the so-called evils of gentrification when those same middle classes buy and restore decaying houses.

The same degree of hostility to gentrification would probably not be found anywhere else except in Britain. It should be obvious to anyone genuinely concerned for urban renewal, and not simply seeking to make political capital out of it, that the more private investment is attracted into the inner cities the better. In recent years too much has been left to the government and local authorities. Municipal initia-

tive has its place but, carried to extremes, merely creates polarization.

So what contribution can the campaign make? The answer ought to be quite a lot. There must be lessons, for example, which Britain can learn in the operation of cheap, flat rate and economically manned public transport system.

Britain might well take a closer look at some of the methods of housing finance, home purchase and tenancy that have been developed in other countries. The encouragement of small businesses, the provision of better educational and social services, and the combating of crime, vandalism and racism would also seem to be fertile subjects for discussion.

The Hartnell estate is near The Times offices in Gray's Inn Road in London. It comprises eight blocks of late Victorian working-class flats and, despite its grim appearance, the residents of the 312 flats felt themselves until recently to be a genuine community.

Just over two years ago, however, the buildings were acquired by the St Pancras Housing Association, with the aid of a mortgage from Camden Council. The praiseworthy aim was to carry out long overdue repairs and modernization. However, long before the scheme could be completed, it fell foul of public spending cuts.

Work has come to a halt since the Government im-

posed a moratorium on all further schemes by either local authorities or housing associations. The blocks, the tenants, half of them pensioners, are left with leaking roofs, falling masonry, inadequate plumbing and dangerous electrical wiring.

Worse still, many of the tenants had been "decanted" into accommodation elsewhere while modernization was supposed to have taken place. Since then the flats have been occupied by squatters and so-called short life tenants, who look as though they will be there for a long time yet. The residents' association thinks it is years before any money is available for

modernization, and it fears that even essential repairs will be postponed to a point many homes they had built or intended to build, have largely been discarded as vote winners. Yet recent informal surveys have indicated that, together with unemployment and inflation, housing is among the electorate's main preoccupations.

Without doubt, the virtual collapse of new building, combined with the heavy share which housing has been made to bear of capital expenditure cuts, will be one of the main causes to heat the Conservatives at future elections, national and local.

But by no means all the

Conservative Parties blame can be laid at the door of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, or of Mr John Stanley, the Minister for Housing.

By the 1950s much Victorian and Edwardian housing in London and the big industrial cities had so deteriorated, through the combined effects of neglect and German bombing, that it was felt to be beyond saving. Local authorities, with government encouragement, embarked on massive schemes of redevelopment which were intended to sweep away the slums forever, and to provide every housing unit with adequate space, heating, light and sanitation.

What went wrong is on

the whole familiar enough. Leaving aside the question whether much of the housing demolished could have been retained and hind sight suggests that it could—the new estates were far too monolithic to permit a continuing sense of community.

The arguments over finance between the Government and the inner city councils, Conservative as well as Labour, are bound to be bitter and protracted. The councils claim that the Government simply does not understand, or is deliberately ignoring, the scale of the problems.

**John Young**

## Housing renewal threatened by cuts

### Small companies nurtured in London and Glasgow

## Cockney-style industry gets a boost

When Dennis Statham acquired a derelict Victorian warehouse amid the ruins of commercial life in London's East End for just £22,000 in 1979 scarcely a cockney eyebrow was raised.

Today the honeycomb of 13 industrial workshops which have been created within the shell of that building stand out as a small beacon in a crusade to regenerate the commercial life of the East End.

Mr Statham is the executive director of the Hackney Business Promotion Centre, a non-profit-making company formed in 1978 to prevent the demise of small businesses in an area where unemployment touches 15 per cent in some parts.

The warehouse, in Rivington Street, Hackney, was bought from a capital grant originally provided for the setting up of the HBPC, and is managed by a wholly owned subsidiary. The £75,000 facelift which followed was financed by a bank loan and an improvement grant under the Urban Areas Act of 1978.

For cockney purists the incestuous, anti-like character of the building is in the best traditions of East End commercial activity as women's wear manufacturers work side by side with machine engravers and an embryo printing business.

But ironically the honeycomb design is a reversion to the crowded conditions which have been one of the major contributing factors in the decline of an area which was once the industrial heart of the capital.

Mr Statham said: "The decline coincided with a

change in the pattern of international trade as Third World countries started to develop their industries. In Britain there was a rush for green field sites to stimulate our own industries. But in dense urban areas like the East End, with its narrow streets and decaying buildings, problems of traffic density and distribution as well as mechanical handling of goods and the rapid increase in wages made the factors of production stand on their head. People could not compete any more.

In the East End, with its incestuous relationship between small companies lived on each other's backs, the knock-on effect when one company had a problem was quite incredible.

"A lot of the buildings are empty and the cost of putting them back into working order would not normally provide a return on investment to attract property developers. There would also be problems with planning permission because of the narrow streets. But there is not much we can do about it. You can't bulldoze the lot down. What we have tried to do is ensure that where properties are vacant they are filled."

The initial aim of the HBPC is to act as liaison between an increasingly anxious Hackney council and local commerce and industry, and to offer an advice and consultancy service to small businesses.

It receives a grant of about £36,000 a year under the aegis of the Urban Areas Act from the Department of the Environment, which contributes 75 per cent, and the local council which provides the rest.

The centre has a voluntary board of directors drawn from commerce, banking and the local authority, and is run by just

Mr Statham—a former chairman of the British Importers Confederation and a trade consultant for the EEC in Brussels—and a secretary, supplemented by people seconded from commerce and industry.

While the converted warehouse is the most obvious testimony to its success, the HBPC has worked behind the scenes to provide assistance to more than 700 businesses, mainly in Hackney but also throughout the East End and beyond.

Mr Statham said: "Its success has been incredible. It is so successful we have been totally swamped, such is the need."

The HBPC has acted as a catalyst. It is now retaining by Hackney council as business consultant for its Urban Areas Act loans and grants operations; it has launched research projects in conjunction with universities, polytechnics and the Commission for Racial Equality; it has pioneered education courses for local small businessmen; it has organized financial resources in the creation of individual companies. And all its services are free.

The milestones on the East End's road to recovery are not easily reached. But as a measure of the area's determination local industry will hold a trade fair next month at the Britannia Leisure Centre, Shoreditch.

The HBPC has helped to bring together the three local authorities of Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets, and the Greater London Council, the combined sponsorship of the 250 stand exhibition designed to boost trade.

"The patient may be sickly," said Mr Statham, "but he is certainly not dead."

**Michael Horsnell**

## Surgery after the Empire's demise

Growing among the crumbling tenements and unsightly wasteland of the east end of Glasgow are the first shoots of a new suburb which aims to provide jobs and homes and surroundings of which to be proud. Four years have elapsed since the inception of the Glasgow Eastern Area Renewal (GEAR) and after the expenditure of £120m it is at last having a visible impact on one of the largest areas of urban decay in Britain.

It is a joint exercise among the Strathclyde regional and Glasgow district councils, the Manpower Services Commission, the Housing Corporation, the Scottish Planning Board, the Scottish Special Housing Association and the Greater Glasgow Health Board. Coordinating the group and giving overall direction is the Scottish Development Agency (SDA), whose largest single scheme is this "heart surgery" in the west of Scotland.

So far GEAR has escaped public expenditure cuts, which perhaps indicates the scale of the task and the importance in which it is held. Spending should continue at about £30m a year, although as individual groups in the project feel their spending power being trimmed, there could be a reduction in funds.

Glasgow grew into the so-called workshop of the British Empire in the days when industry mushroomed rapidly along the Clyde and the outskirts of the city with little thought to long-term planning. The empire faded and so too did the east end and the city. The most dramatic change showed in the departure through the drift and decaying in one generation of 85,000 people—almost two thirds of the population. "It was the able and those with initiative that tended to leave, and it is those people

we want to get back", Mr Richard Colwell, director of GEAR said.

Scars of ugly environmental wounds remain but there is plenty of evidence to show where the bulldozers have been busy. GEAR signs spread like saplings, marking new housing developments, industrial estates, playgrounds or parkland.

Several old tenement blocks have been gutted and given new interiors, the outside stonework returning to its traditional warm coloured sandstone. After decades in which there was no private housebuilding in the whole sprawling 4,000 acres of the east end, several small estates have been built by private developers, and the houses are selling well.

The heavy industry that was once the taproots of Glasgow is gone and is being replaced by a spread of smaller concerns, attracted by a number of inducements, including rent-free accommodation for their first two years in business. Despite the recession, demand for these premises has been buoyant, and there is a waiting list of more than 70 companies. "We are returning to the small business which is the real strength of the west of Scotland and which the large engineering firms were based", one developer said.

The massive site of the former British Steel works at Cambuslang has been cleared to make way for new development. The SDA put in £2m and a Dutch company has added £8m to set up a plant to manufacture activated carbon. Other concerns are following the example. An international freight distribution company is seeking to take over 50 acres of the

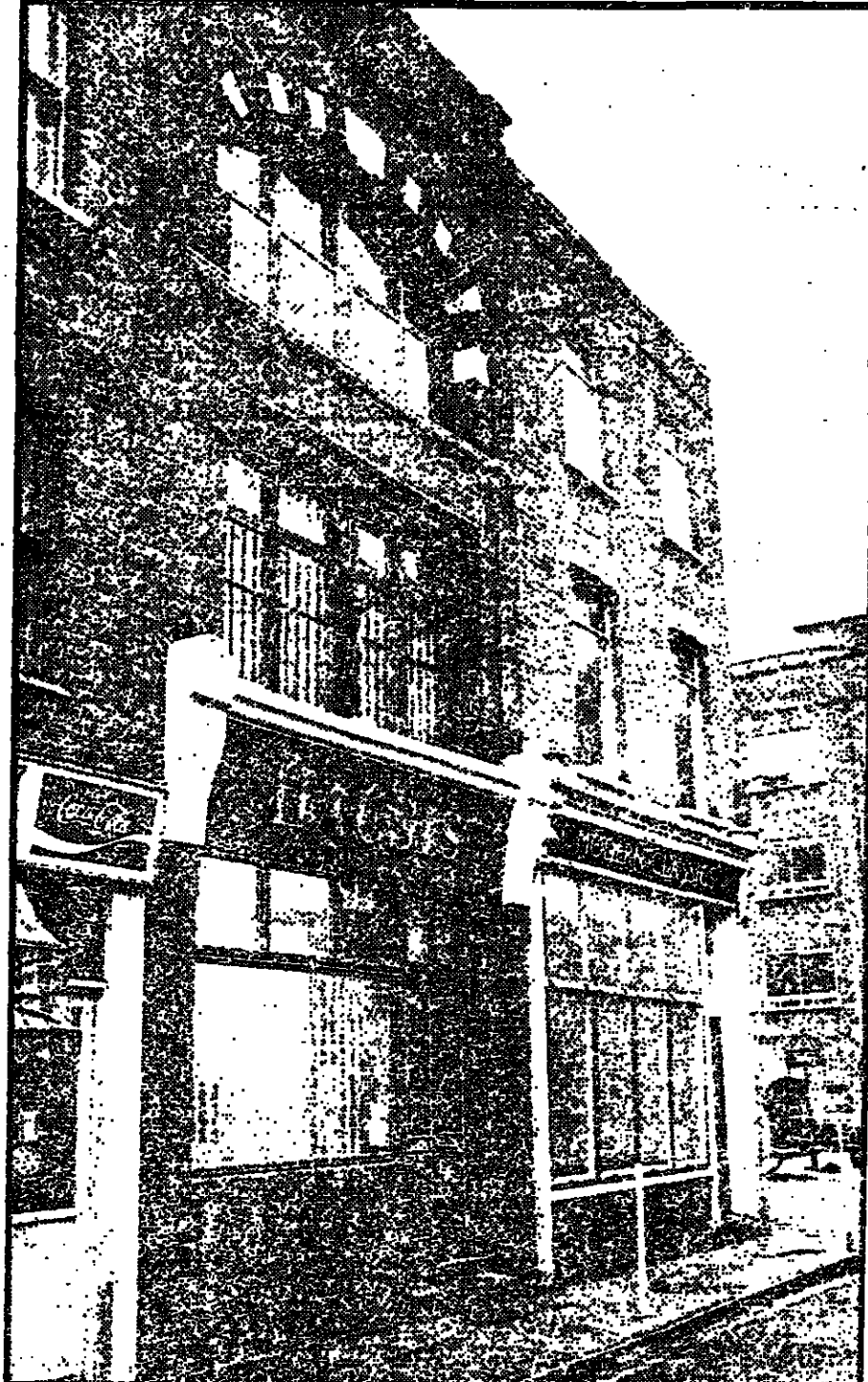
Cambuslang site as a ware house.

There were 25,000 sq ft of purpose-built factory space in the area and another manufacturer who was about to move out of Glasgow has been persuaded to move in. The SDA calculates the GEAR has already created 1,600 jobs and another 1,500 are expected to follow this year alone.

Reality has, to a marked degree, overtaken the original plan. Mr Colwell is optimistic because of the speed with which redevelopment is taking place. "It is much quicker than the normal pattern for a new town. Already, after a fairly short time, private housing and the increased rates needed to pay for schemes such as GEAR are making them consider other areas—a new town perhaps where the grants are higher, the costs lower and the grass greener."

According to Mr Colwell, everything depends on an early end to the recession. GEAR has made a good start, he says, but needs a warmer economic climate to reach its full potential.

**Ronald Faux**

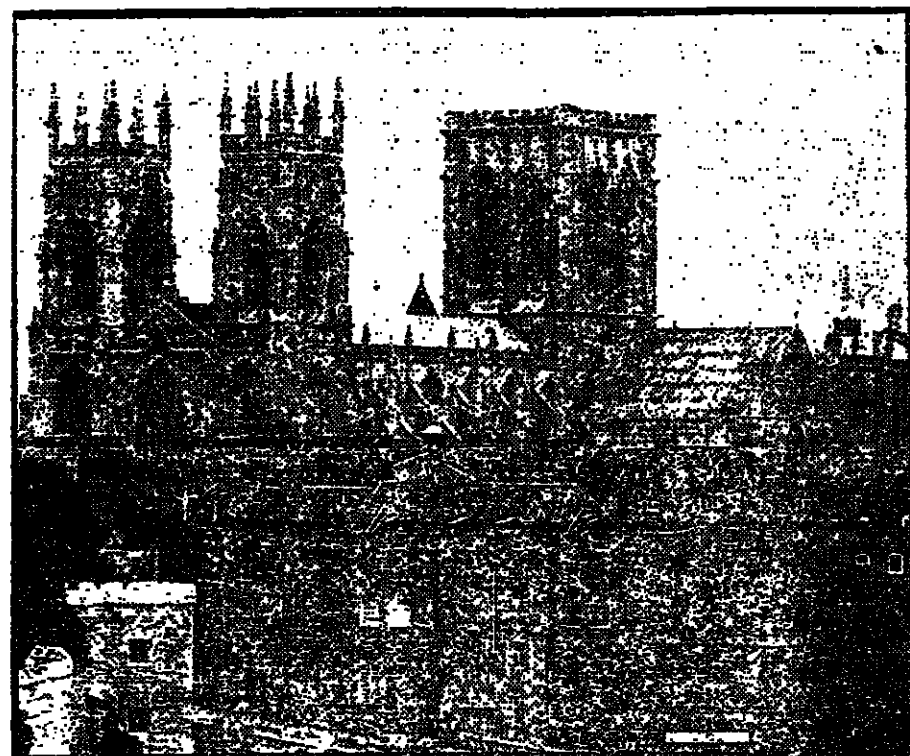
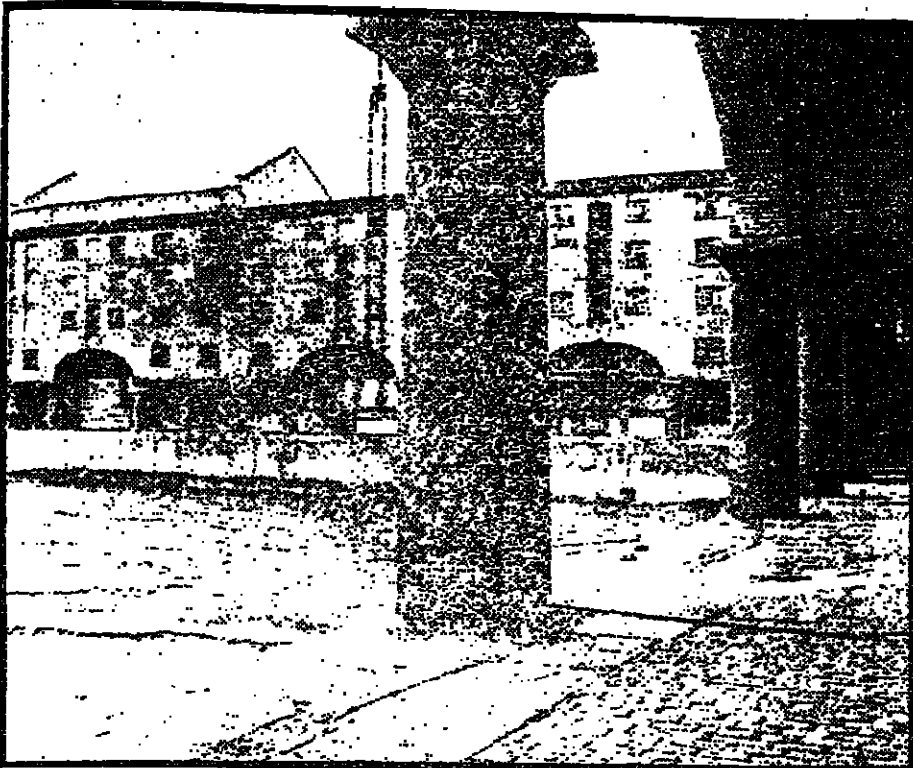


The warehouse in Rivington Street, Hackney, acquired by Mr Dennis Statham. HBPC stands for Hackney small industrial space.



a report on urban regeneration

# THE INNER CITY



Last October the Council for Europe launched its Campaign for Urban Renaissance amid the ornate splendours of Lancaster House, London, writes John Young, Planning Reporter.

It was a 'spectacularly boring' occasion, at which ministers took it in turns to deliver interminable accounts of the laws and regulations that their respective governments had passed and, for the most part, how well they were working. Instead of appeals for help and cooperation, there was little more than smug self-satisfaction.

It is that lack of communication and comprehension, rather than the preoccupation of governments with more urgent economic matters, that would seem to explain why the campaign

appears to have made so little headway so far. Indeed, economic stagnation and unemployment are closely linked to urban decline. Anyone who doubts that should have a look round Clydeside or Merseyside.

Why is it that the nations of Europe, which came together so successfully five years ago to discuss the conservation and protection of their architectural heritage, appear to misunderstand each other so badly on the subject of urban renewal?

At the Lancaster House conference, most delegates seemed to be talking at cross purposes.

Some perceived the prob-

lems in terms of unemployment and low incomes, others in terms of pollution; some wanted better housing or cheap public transport, others thought that what was wanted was more local democracy; some saw the paramount need as being for improved health and social services, others talked of raising educational standards. There was, above all, a distinct gap between those concerned primarily with improving the physical environment, and those who wanted to elevate the term 'renaissance' to a higher level, and who talked about raising the 'quality of life'.

One reason why the British often seem to be talking a different language from their continental counterparts is that their recent urban history has been significantly different. Until the early nineteenth century, Britain was in character and appearance much like the rest of Europe; a predominantly

agricultural country, in which most people lived in villages, and in which the cathedral cities had their roots deep in history.

When the industrial revolution came, those ancient cities—Winchester, York, Canterbury and so on—were largely by-passed. The great new industrial towns—Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield—grew from almost nothing in a short space of time, usually because they happened to be on the railway track. Chicago, for example, grew to prominence as the terminus and stockyard centre for the great wheat and cattle enterprises of the West and mid-West.

It was those same cities which, in both countries, once they had outlived their usefulness, began to decline. Their inhabitants left in search of cleaner air and greener pastures, whereas elsewhere in Europe people were happy to continue living at high densities in cities where their families had lived for generations, and for

The British experience is

Left: the Albert Docks at Liverpool. Above: the street market at Camden Lock. Right: a rooftop view of York Minster with its triple towers.

much more akin to that of the United States. There, too, huge cities sprang from nothing in a short space of time, usually because they happened to be on the railway track. Chicago, for example, grew to prominence as the terminus and stockyard centre for the great wheat and cattle enterprises of the West and mid-West.

It was those same cities which, in both countries, once they had outlived their usefulness, began to decline. Their inhabitants left in search of cleaner air and greener pastures, whereas elsewhere in Europe people were happy to continue living at high densities in cities where their families had lived for generations, and for

which they felt deep pride. There was, and still is, a degree of pride in British and American cities. It was a pride that manifested itself in the great civic buildings of the Victorian era. It has recently rediscovered itself in New York to a remarkable degree, partly because of a clever publicity campaign aimed at combating decay and disillusionment.

But the pride was not strong enough to keep people, mostly the young, ambitious and so-called economically active, from moving out to seek what they saw as a better life in the suburbs and, in Britain's case, the New Towns. While commuting helped to keep the commercial centres of most cities alive and well, many of the surrounding inner areas became increasingly shabby and derelict.

However, to try to explain the inner city problem merely in terms of bad housing and environment would

be simplistic. It is perhaps only in the present recession that the full import of deindustrialization has come to be recognized. Cities are in decline in much of the Western world because they no longer have the same role to play in the economy. In contrast, in those parts of the world which are still rapidly industrializing, such as South-east Asia and Brazil, cities are still growing at a frightening rate.

The tragedy for so many British and American cities is that they were founded upon a single industry which has now severely contracted or moved elsewhere. In her latest book, *The Economy of Cities*, Jane Jacobs, the brilliant American commentator, writes of Detroit in terms which could equally well apply to Liverpool or Newcastle.

A very successful growth industry poses a crisis for a city. Everything—all other development work, all other processes of city growth, the

fertile and creative inefficiency of the growth industry's suppliers, the opportunities of able workers to break away, the inefficient but creative use of capital—can be sacrificed to the exigencies of a growth industry, which thus turns the city into a company town.

Neither Liverpool nor Newcastle was ever quite a "company town" to the extent that Detroit was in thrall to Henry Ford and General Motors. But in either be reduced in numbers or will find it cheaper and more convenient to work elsewhere.

But that does not mean, or ought not to mean, that our cities will simply wither away. To suppose, as Ebenezer Howard did, and as his ideological followers, the Town and Country Planning Association, still appear to do, that inside every urbanite is a suburbanite trying to get out, and that every person's ideal

There is almost certainly

no way in which these cities can be restored to their former preeminence. Britain is in the process of a new industrial revolution which, if successful, will replace much of its old manufacturing sector with new industries based on advanced technology. Developments in communications are likely to mean that even the white collar commuters, who have sustained the economic life of cities in recent years, will either be reduced in numbers or will find it cheaper and more convenient to work elsewhere.

But that does not mean, or ought not to mean, that our cities will simply wither away. To suppose, as Ebenezer Howard did, and as his ideological followers, the Town and Country Planning Association, still appear to do, that inside every urbanite is a suburbanite trying to get out, and that every person's ideal

continued on next page

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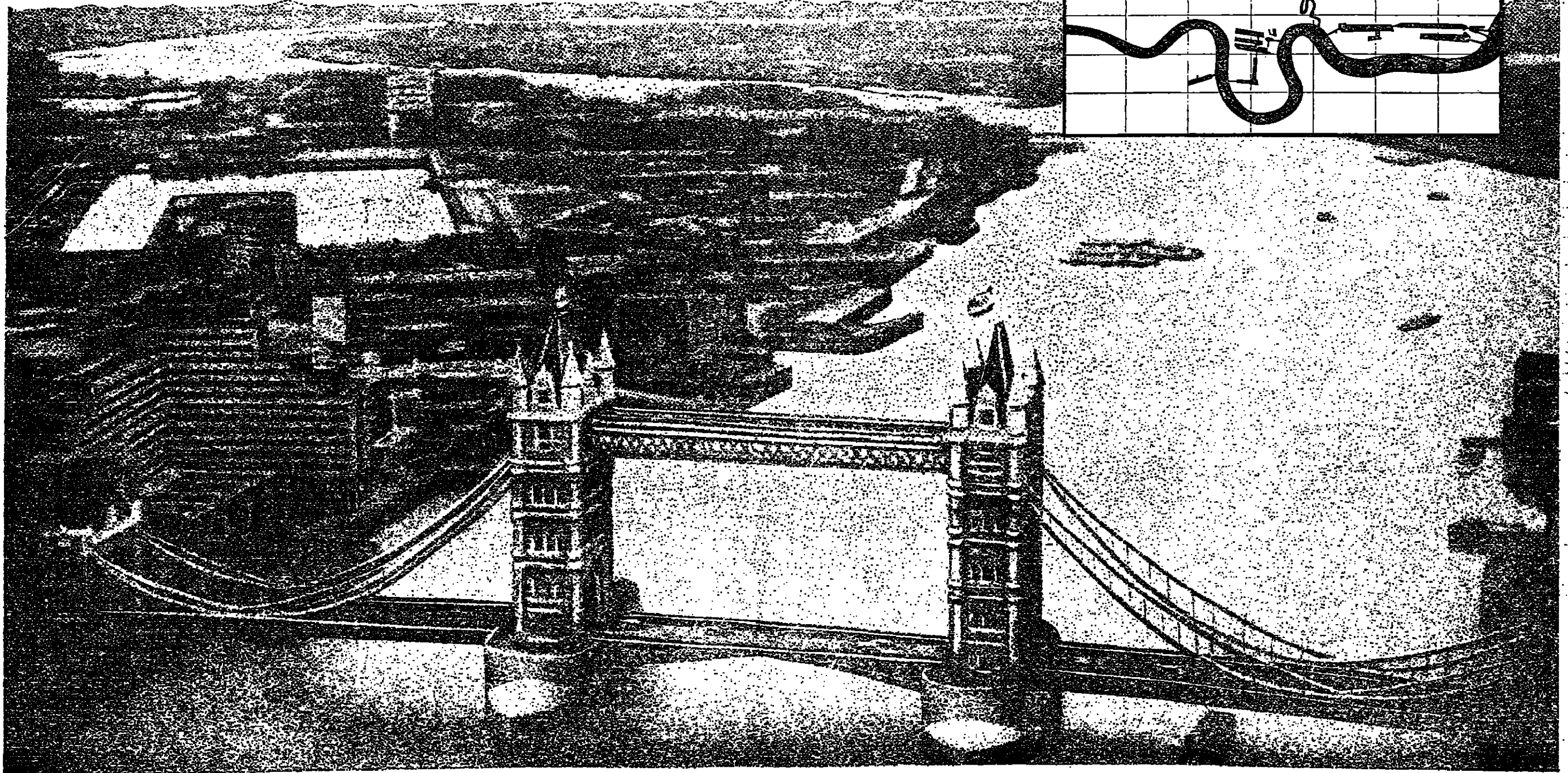
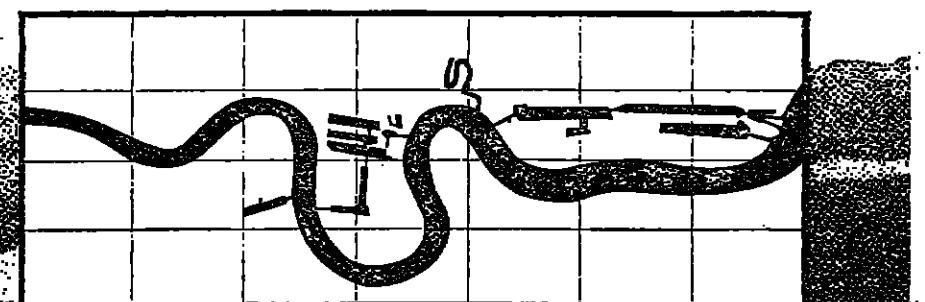
is considering the creation of a special urban development corporation. Such a body would be given exceptional powers to encourage commerce and industry.

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This case included incompetence and chicanery among the lawyers, partiality from the judge and perjury from at least one witness. Bernard Levin examines an extraordinary legal action



## The Labour drinks scandal that keeps coming back

The publication of the latest volume of the *Crossman Diaries* has revived again the surfaced three years ago, after lying dormant for more than two decades, what is rapidly being seen, and I think rightly, as one of the greatest legal scandals since the war. Mr Alexander Chancellor, editor of *The Spectator*, has discussed it in his paper. Mr Auberon Waugh (who was responsible for the first attempt to raise the bulk from the seabed in 1978) has returned to it in his review of the new instalment of Crossman's diary in the *Sunday Telegraph*, and the editor of the *Sunday Express* has joined in. That might seem to make comment from me superfluous, but I have a contribution to make which includes one very important item which has never before been published. For those who have not seen the comments published in the past few days, and do not remember the *Times* correspondence on it in 1978, I must first summarize the facts.

Crossman, Aneurin Bevan and Morgan Phillips (then General Secretary of the Labour Party) went to Venice early in 1957 as fraternal delegates to the congress of the Italian Socialist Party. The late Jenny Nicholson wrote a report of the scene, published in *The Spectator*, in which she implied "although the Italians were never sure if the British delegation was sober" that the trio had been lifting elbows vigorously on the trip and at times been the worse for drink. Crossman, Bevan and Phillips all sued *The Spectator* for libel; the case was heard before Lord Chief Justice Goddard, and the defendants won, being awarded

£2,500 each — a very large sum in the values of those days.

The story reappeared in 1978 because Mr Auberon Waugh then publicly alleged that six years before, in the presence of himself and several other people, Crossman had admitted that Jenny Nicholson's story was true, and that they had indeed got drunk, from which it inescapably followed that all three of the plaintiffs had committed perjury in denying it in the witness-box. Lord Goodman, who had been their solicitor, thereupon wrote a letter of positively Aquinian subtlety, in which he said:

In this famous libel action, none of the plaintiffs ever made any statement to any of their legal advisers including myself either before or after the case suggesting that their evidence was false. Mr Michael Foot, Bevan's biographer, also wrote a letter, in which he denied that Bevan had drunk too much on the famous visit, and worked himself up into a fine appearance of indignation; I put it like that because in his letter Mr Foot said that he had consulted relevant passages in the *Crossman diary* for the period (at that time, of course, not yet published), implying that Crossman bore out the story of the delegation's wickedly impugned sobriety. Naturally, Mr Foot was concerned only with Bevan's own behaviour; all the same, the part of the diary he had privately read included a passage which he did not refer to, but which we have had to wait until today to read it, in which sheds a good deal of light not only on what happened in Venice but also on Mr Foot's "astonishment and subsea". Here it is:

Directly Morgan got into the box, it was clear he was a sub-normal witness — shifty, fearful, sweating with panic (legitimately, for he had been dead drunk for most of the conference) . . .

The *Crossman diary* of the episode also includes matter . . . the kind of gamble which no one should responsibly have undertaken, even though we did win it in the end" which, though it makes

much that needed explaining; in the end, however, Sir Ian decided to let the matter drop, and Mr Foot, with a claim that can now be seen to be very shaky indeed, remained master of a dubious field. I have not discussed the case with Sir Ian since it took place, but I believe that what he was going to reveal is what I propose to reveal now.

I am in a position to do so because I had joined *The Spectator*, as its political correspondent, just before Jenny Nicholson's article appeared, and although I played no part in the legal proceedings I did take part in discussions of them at *The Spectator's* offices, and I sat through the entire trial, about which I shall have a good deal to say in a moment. What, I think, has never hitherto come out is that *The Spectator*, when the writs were issued, obtained evidence in Venice, in which all three of the plaintiffs had indeed got drunk. This evidence would have entitled the defendants to plead that the words were "true in substance and in fact", but in the end Sir Ian (called "justification") or the evidence that would have supported it. There was the risk that, despite the evidence, the plaintiffs had won the damages would have been very high indeed (the usual result of an unsuccessful plea of justification); there was also Sir Ian's conviction, said to have been learnt from Lord Halsbury, the head of his chambers (Sir Ian is himself a barrister), that justification should always be avoided if any other plea is available. But that left the defence in ruins. Sir Ian was adamant that

**HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**  
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION  
THREE PLAINTIFFS EACH  
AWARDED £2,500  
BEVAN AND OTHERS V. THE  
SPECTATOR LTD.  
Before the Lord Chief Justice and a jury.  
The plaintiffs were each awarded £2,500 damages in this libel action by Sir Aneurin Bevan, Mr Richard Howard Richards, Mr Michael Foot, Mr Auberon Waugh, Mr Morgan Phillips, of Liberty Street, N.W., against *The Spectator*, Ltd., of Lower Street, at London, on an article in the issue of March 1, 1957, on the headline, at page 20, under the title, "The Venetian", by Jenny Nicholson, dealing with the party that Crossman

From *The Times* of November 23, 1957

no admission of perjury on his or Bevan's part, goes some way towards suggesting that the other plaintiffs' case was not quite so watertight as had been argued.

There the story rests. But I must now disturb its slumbers. When the affair reappeared in 1978, Sir Ian Gilmour, who at the time of the case was both the proprietor and the editor of *The Spectator*, let it be known that he had information which he believed would explain



Personalities on the way to a legal cause célèbre: A jovial farewell to Venice in 1957 from Morgan Phillips (left) and Aneurin Bevan (right) with the then leader of the Italian socialists, Pietro Nenni.

he would not be a party to any withdrawal or settlement which impugned Jenny Nicholson's accuracy, integrity or veracity; he did offer to publish an apology, and a generous one it was, too, in the circumstances, but the plaintiffs, I fear because they had scented victory and gold, refused it, and the case came to court.

As I say, I sat right through it, and remember it well — so well, indeed, that I seem to be the only person to recall that Lord Goodman himself gave evidence, as did Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, of the defendants' solicitors, Oswald Hickson; I remember that for both sides' solicitors to give evidence in a trial must have been unprecedented. Carter-Ruck made an ass of himself in the witness box, but Goodman gave a performance no less delicately unambiguous than the letter I quoted a few paragraphs back.

But the solicitors' evidence was little more than light relief; and light relief was very necessary, for the proceedings concerned the sale of peace, on which they would have to fight should peace prove unattainable, if they knew that their words offering the concessions would be read out in court. Nevertheless,

To start with, there was Goddard on the bench. I have said my say more than once on Goddard's savagery; on this occasion there was no place for it, but instead he behaved with such outrageous bias against the defendants that it caused audible gasps in the court. When Sir Ian Gilmour was giving evidence, for instance, Goddard at times virtually took over the cross-examination himself, questioning him in a manner which made it plain that he had made up his mind from the start of the proceedings; his summing-up to the jury was not easy to distinguish from the final speech of the plaintiffs' counsel.

This was that old rogue Gilbert Belfus, who got away with a particularly disreputable trick. The negotiations between the solicitors over the apology that *The Spectator* was willing to give were conducted "Without Prejudice". Such exchanges are not part of the case proper; the parties would never concede anything for the sake of peace, on which they would have to fight should peace prove unattainable, if they knew that their words offering the concessions would be read out in court. Nevertheless,

less, Belfus did refer to the "Without Prejudice" matter, and actually accused Sir Ian Gilmour of lying in the witness-box on the strength of it. This was particularly offensive, since whatever may have been the case with Bevan and Crossman, it was obvious to everyone in the court that Morgan Phillips was committing perjury with almost every word he spoke, and no less obvious that Sir Ian was telling the truth: possibly it was only the fact that *The Spectator* was left with practically nothing but a plea for the damages to be kept low that prevented the jury even as directed by Goddard, from finding for the defendants against Phillips at least.

But even that does not exhaust the catalogue of legal turpitude, and the last is the worst. The last is the conduct of the defence counsel, the late W. A. Fearnley-Whittinghall, QC. When the case began, it immediately became apparent that he had no more than the vaguest idea of what it was about; he could scarcely even glance at the papers for months, let alone master them. So complete was his dereliction of duty that there was a prolonged and hideously

embarrassing scene in which Sir Ian Gilmour had repeatedly to whisper information to the Fearnley-Whittinghall while the lawyer was actually on his feet conducting the case. (At that time I had not heard of barristers who go into court unprepared, hoping to pick up the facts and the issues as they came along, and naturally supposed to do our work if we are to draw our wages, the Bar did, too.)

I do not know whether there is any way of reopening legal proceedings. I doubt if Sir Ian Gilmour, a particularly magnanimous man, would wish to raise these ghosts even if there were. But the new volume of the *Crossman Diaries* has now made it possible to say publicly and for general consumption what was previously known only to a few: that this case included incompetence and chicanery among the lawyers, partiality from the judge, and perjury on the part of at least one witness and probably more. I know that Justice is supposed to be blind: on this occasion she seems to have been blind drunk.

war in 1939 is best explained by the respected biographers, Lord and O'Neill. "It was a pragmatic policy based on Ireland's interest and on the circumstances of Irish public opinion. De Valera recognized that the Irish people had divided opinions on the belligerents but that the vast majority, despite their personal feelings to one or other of the countries concerned, agreed that Ireland should not get involved."

Fine Gael, the main opposition party, contains the largest number of MPs who would be prepared to abandon neutrality. Its foreign affairs spokesman, Mr Richie Ryan, takes a passionate pro-neutrality stance but that may not reflect majority opinion in the party. Many senior Fine Gael MPs point to examples where neutrality has not been strictly observed and believe that it should now be finally abandoned so that Ireland can take its small but rightful place in the defence of western Europe.

Mr Haughey will open tomorrow's debate by moving a deliberately vague motion committing the principles, which have guided the defence policy of the government and its predecessors. His own backbench foreign affairs committee has privately expressed alarm about a possible defence pact directly to Mr Lenihan and he is looking for some substantial reassurance about what exactly is going on.

The controversy has a distinctly historical ring. Under the 1921 Treaty the British Navy provided exclusive naval protection and enjoyed access to Irish ports. In the 1938 negotiations on the return of the ports (after which neutrality was formally adopted), de Valera, in attempting to gain British support for Irish unity, declared that he was willing to offer a defence pact.

Within his own party, Fianna Fail, there is a powerful pro-neutrality lobby which takes its strength from de Valera, whose neutrality on the outbreak of

The only course left to the indignant gourmet is to approach the fish counter and request a pound of smoked salmon offcuts, which I am assured are still to be had at £3.50.

Alan Hamilton

## The union 'fixer' with a conscience

A conversation yesterday lunchtime with the trade unionist at the centre of the one-day Civil Service strike designed to paralyse the Government machine was more like eavesdropping on the secrets of the confessional than a normal exchange between journalist and strike leader.

It was entirely typical of Mr William Kendall, Secretary General of the Council of Civil Service Unions, that he should quote Chesterton on original sin being the one basis for eternal optimism. For since leaving the Communist Party 30 years ago, Roman Catholicism and literature have been the wellsprings of his existence and the sources of solace in times of trouble.

Asked about the day of action, Mr Kendall, a moderate in his politics and a "fixer" in his trade union style, replied: "I bother my Catholic conscience about this. A strike means acute moral tension because I am pledged to a non-political Civil Service."

"I operate on a good Old Testament-New Testament basis — you cannot sit on your backside in the midst of injustice. We have a good moral case, but one does agonize about it."

Mr Kendall describes his union origins as "old fashioned classic" with his father a shop steward active in the co-operative movement. His education he ascribes to South Shields Public Library.

After war service in the Royal Air Force, he wanted to be a teacher but drifted into the Civil Service as the college waiting lists were long. He swiftly became involved in the savage left-right fighting of the old Civil Service Clerical Association. He has long since shed his communism, but a Georgist radicalism remains and he is no respecter of hierarchies in an institution that is a monument to them.

As general secretary of the largest Whitehall union, the



William Kendall: agonizing over a good moral case.

Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) from 1967 to 1975, his term of office spanned the period in which his own clerical officers and the executive officers represented by the Society of Civil and Public Servants moved into a more militant posture as the Government's policy of successive incomes policies, applied with particular strictness to the Government's own employees, transformed the relatively mild tenor of the old Whitley system of joint negotiations, constructed in the wake of the First World War as a model for the country's industrial relations as a whole.

It was Mr Kendall, an accomplished phrasemaker, who first dubbed Sir William Armstrong, the head of the home Civil Service, as Mr Edward Heath's "deputy prime minister" in 1973. The one-day strike on February 27, 1973, made it a watershed year for the Civil Service union movement, with members of the CPSA and the society coming out despite his personal letter to all civil ser-

vants from Sir William five days earlier appealing to them to stay at work and asking them to consider the effect their action would have on the public.

In its aftermath, Mr Kendall took the initiative in trying to heal the wounds by persuading the Civil Service Department to undertake an examination of "wider issues" beyond the question of pay. Its results were published in 1975 as *The Wider Issues Review* and were overtaken almost immediately by an economy drive introduced by the Wilson administration which left little in the way of funds for the achievement of better working conditions and greater job satisfaction Mr Kendall was seeking.

Mr Kendall, who celebrates his fifty-fifth birthday today, has reached, two years into his retirement, the eminence of an elder statesman on the Civil Service scene, liked by his fellow general secretaries for his geniality and admired for his shrewdness as an operator.

With his friend and ally of many years, Mr William McGill, general secretary of the scientists' union, the Institution of Professional Civil Servants — they are commonly known as "the two Bills" — he has sought since becoming secretary general of the union's umbrella organization five years ago to exert a moderating influence particularly over the CPSA and the society to both of which are attached active and disputatious left wings.

Mr Kendall's demeanour in the past few days has been that of a man who believes he has exhausted all reasonable channels with ministers and officials in the Civil Service Department's pay divisions. He said last week that if his unions did not take a stand after the strike, the Government has created them this year, particularly by suspending the system for determining their pay on the basis of fair comparisons with the private sector. The Cabinet would trample all over them again in 1982, 83 and 84.

Though a man who knows how to fashion words into a weapon, he had managed this week, as in the past, to lead his side into industrial action without the ill-effects that sometimes afflict trade union leaders in times of tension. With some justice, he described himself at a CPSA conference in the 1960s as "the mildest revolutionary in the business". Anticipating the year-end events in conversation last August, Mr Kendall said of Mrs Thatcher: "The danger is that in the end she will produce a politicized Civil Service which is attacking the institution itself. The other danger is that the unions will assist the politicization and will become more overt. Neither process do I like. It will produce a terrible circular effect."

Peter Hennessy

## Ireland: the passion about neutrality

Irish MPs gather tomorrow to debate the country's second great political passion — its policy of international neutrality.

It is a policy rooted deep in the Irish experience, and was first articulated the day that James Connolly hauled a streamer across the front of Liberty Hall, Dublin, after the outbreak of the First World War, proclaiming: "We serve neither King nor Kaiser."

Neutrality is inextricably linked with Ireland's first great passion, the Northern Question. The spirit of James Connolly's gesture remains, but the practical operation of neutrality often looks ambiguous and confused, especially since Ireland's accession to the EEC.

That stems largely from a deep and fundamental confusion. The Irish have a sense of being European but also have a powerful spiritual and cultural link with the countries that have been dominated by European powers. Ireland feels that it shared a colonial experience with many non-European nations, which is why it has nearly always voted with the Afro-Asian group in the General Assembly on colonial issues, although it has always been staunchly anti-communist. The stands against Britain over Cyprus, and France over Algeria, are part of the Irish political folklore.

For Ireland to join a European defence bloc would, therefore, be far more than a tactical or practical decision. Considerable political dangers are inherent in the dabbling by the Prime Minister, Mr Charles Haughey, with such an emotional issue, if the Government bungles the handling of today's debate it could precipitate a re-sounding defeat in the general election which is confidently expected in late May or early June.

Mr Brian Lenihan, the Foreign Minister, said recently: "It has been recognized that Ireland would be prepared to participate in

arrangements for the defence of the European Community if so called upon."

Compare that version of neutrality to the model of 1939 which was described by the leader of the coalition government, John A. Costello, in rejecting an American invitation to join Nato: "... any military alliance with, or commitment to military action jointly with, the state that is responsible for the universal division of Ireland, which occupies a portion of our country with its armed forces, and which supports undemocratic institutions in the north-eastern corner of Ireland, would be entirely repugnant and unacceptable to the Irish people."

It appears that Britain's membership of the EEC does not present the same difficulties vis-à-vis Northern Ireland as did Britain's membership of Nato. The modern interpretation of neutrality, if indeed that is what it still is, has clearly become more flexible.

The Government reluctantly granted tomorrow's debate in response to pressure from MPs of both opposition parties, and indeed from within its own party. They want to know whether Mr Haughey told Mrs Thatcher at the Dublin Castle summit in December that he would support Ireland's participation in a new European defence pact in return for decisive movement by Britain over Northern Ireland.

It is doubtful whether the subject was discussed in the plenary sessions between the two leaders and their ministers. But some reference however obliquely or casually, was

## Off the scales

I suppose it was too good to last. I have to report with regret that a little-known source of remarkably cheap smoked salmon from Harrods has dried up.

Until recently the Knightsbridge emporium sold smoked salmon skins for the absolute giveaway price of 35p each. They were the leftovers after the best bits of the fish had been smoked, sliced and put in boxes for sale at 11s a pound (or £10 if you could find any in the sales).

Harrods admitted to me yesterday that they had stopped selling the salmon skins because they were uneconomical, which I suppose is another way of saying they were not making enough money on them. They also said that a number of customers complained that there was so little flesh on the skins, which seems churlish of the customers.

The only course left to the indignant gourmet is to approach the fish counter and request a pound of smoked salmon offcuts, which I am assured are still to be had at £3.50.

Alan Hamilton

## A-bomb? The way to avoid pegging out

With civil servants impelling the entire defence umbrella of the western world with their strike campaign, as reported in this newspaper yesterday, it seems as good a time as any to talk about nuclear shelters.

Since the invasion of Afghanistan no end of enterprising businessmen have been jumping on the bandwagon of fear by offering a wide variety of underground survival devices suited to the suburban home. Now I hear of one with a difference. "Survive Armageddon in the out tens" seems to be the message of the Dundee firm which has announced what I understand to be the first portable foldaway nuclear or chemical warfare survival unit.

After consultation with two scientists from Dundee University, the L. H. Civil Defence Company has come up with this ingenious answer to an unpleasant problem. The refuge holds four people and is made from the same protective material as that worn by front-

line Nato troops. The company claims that, at £200, it is within the reach of any family in the western world.

It is designed to be used alongside the Government's *Protect and Survive* recommendations, but if it is to be erected within four minutes it will have to be a great deal simpler than any tent I have ever wrestled with. Still, it could save the embarrassment of being caught in Chelmsford when your costly, unportable concrete shelter is in Hendon. The trouble is that if it doesn't work you won't be in much of a state to complain.

The shelter has been tested by two Dundee students who lived in it for a weekend and "performed all normal bodily functions" without having to come out. The one flaw in the test was that there was no nuclear explosion in Dundee at the time.

Where I come from, people are very rude about Dundee. They assert that one day several years ago there occurred an event which has been hushed up by the authorities ever since. A Soviet missile was the most powerful known nuclear warhead was accidentally fired from a silo near

"Would you mind hog-skinning into this, sir?"



Minsk. Tragically, it landed and exploded in the heart of Dundee, causing £14 worth of damage.

## Drawing a blank

Sir John Boyd, the formidable general secretary of the AUEW, has suffered a rebuff from an unexpected quarter.

He had planned for the engineering union's monthly journal, which he edits, a series in which senior Cabinet ministers would set out on a full page their policies and some of the work of their departments. Their Labour counterparts would be given equal space on the opposite page for spirited replies putting the contrary case.

With commendable speed Conservative Central Office replied that this was indeed a wizard wheeze, and they would be happy to cooperate; soon the first article arrived from James Prior, the Employment Secretary.

In the meantime, however, the Shadow Cabinet were taking an altogether dimmer view of Sir John's efforts to lift the journal from the slough of tedium, ostensibly on the grounds that a union journal should not publicize Tory views. After much shilly-shallying the Labour front bench decided not to take up the offer.

## Double trophy

All of which has come as a surprise to Sir John. Loyalty ever to the party of which he has been a lifelong member (and former chairman), he comments briefly and sadly in the journal that the series could have formed an instructive and challenging debating forum of great interest.

What he does not say is that among the journal's 130,000 subscribers are many Labour activists who would have found the series a useful tool with which to campaign against the Tories. Sir John, who has had to return Prior's article with apologies, permits himself an oblique reference to Labour's internal troubles: "Unfortunately, though perhaps not too surprisingly, our Labour Party colleagues indicated their lack of enthusiasm to participate."

Nunneley, managing director of British Transport Advertising, acquired it in 1944 when his company of the King's African Rifles captured a Japanese position in Burma and found the flag in the enemy camp. The Japanese additions indicate that it was taken by a Sergeant-Major Uchiyama as a trophy of the fall of Singapore in 1942. It is shot-through with bullet



Nunneley and flag. (See Double trophy.)

holes, and Nunneley assumes it was flying from a public building as the invaders poured across the Johore Straits.

Nunneley's souvenir is not to be confused with the surrender flag in our picture, which is that now hangs in the chapel at Charterhouse School. Nunneley may show the flag again, if asked, on the 40th anniversary of the surrender next February.



## THE INNER CITY

John Young talks to Michael Heseltine

## More than a hatchet man

The Department of the Environment is one of the more important portfolios in the Cabinet. Its responsibilities rival those of the Home Office in their diversity and day-to-day effect on the lives of ordinary citizens. Yet, because it is not a glamour post like defence or foreign affairs, and because it is fashionable to raise a yawn at anything to do with local government, incoming secretaries of state tend to regard their duties with a certain tetchiness and disdain.

Yet clearly the job presents a challenge, since in every case reluctance rapidly gives way to zeal and enthusiasm. It happened with Mr Peter Walker and Mr Geoffrey Rippon, with the late Anthony Crosland and with Mr Peter Shore, and it has certainly happened in the case of the present incumbent, Mr Michael Heseltine. It is nearly two years since he took office, and in that time even his most bitter critics have come to respect his commitment.

He may have been less than diligent on occasion, as in his initial handling of the Local Government Planning and Land Bill, but if, as his enemies claim, he is a man of straw, many people in local government and in the construction industry have been forced to conclude that straw is a much tougher substance than they had supposed.

No other minister has been asked to, or has been able to, impose spending cuts with quite the same ruthlessness. He claims that his department has been responsible

for the entire net savings in government expenditure, yet he has managed to avoid much of the odium that has been heaped on certain of his colleagues. At conferences his handling of predominantly hostile audiences has on occasion been masterly.

But is he anything more than a hatchet man for Mrs Thatcher, someone who is prepared to administer the sort of treatment to local authorities that the Government shirks from prescribing for its own civil servants? The evidence indicates that he is. He is a conservationist who has eloquently denounced the shortcomings of contemporary architects and planners and who has called for a broader vision.

Like a true Tory, he is appalled at the inefficiency and bureaucracy of much local government. He believes that the people of Britain have a right to better housing and a better environment, and equally that the existing system has failed them and that every possible alternative should be explored.

Above all, he claims to be committed to the regeneration of inner cities and to bringing wasted, derelict land back into productive use. "It is capital intensive, investment as opposed to mere subsidy," he points out. "It is everything I will devote every resource to it that I possibly can."

He admits that, in the economic circumstances, such resources are inevitably limited, but makes no secret of his dislike of capital restrictions, and insists that it was the last Government's

policy of sacrificing investment in favour of unproductive subsidies that has led to many of the present difficulties.

You will not find me depending on capital cuts," he said in a recent interview. "What I would say is that there was no choice. They were quicker and easier to achieve than reducing revenue spending, but that does not mean to say that they were better. The faster we can get current expenditure down, the faster we will be able to restore capital investment."

He believes that the new towns have for the most part fulfilled their purpose, that they can now be left to their own resources, and that the sort of expenditure that they represented in the past should in future be devoted to filling in the holes that they left behind. Recently he announced that all the remaining development corporations would be wound up by 1990 at the latest.

He also believes that, in the country as a whole, rehabilitation of existing housing stock offers better value for money than large scale new development. To critics that the shortage of money for repairs and modernisation is likely to mean that much housing will deteriorate to the point where it will have to be demolished and replaced, he replies with one of those gestures of frustration that suggest he is far from happy at the burden of abstinance which housing is being forced to bear.

By way of exoneration, he points to the Government's commitment to spend some

£224m at 1980 prices in the coming financial year on inner city regeneration. Of that, about £66m will go to the new urban development corporations in the London and Liverpool docklands, and the remainder to the urban programme, which includes the inner city partnership arrangements between central and local government.

Besides the docklands corporations, he is pinning his faith on two other innovations, the enterprise zones which have been designated in a number of run-down areas, where investors will be largely freed from planning restraints and will be able to claim a number of tax concessions; and the registers of unused and underused land which, he hopes, will not only provide local authorities and developers with taking action but will enable the Government, where necessary, to direct its release.

Mr Heseltine repeatedly emphasises his desire to "harness" the public and private sectors in a common purpose, and both he and Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, have on several recent occasions spoken of the need for greater understanding and collaboration between businessmen and local authorities.

"The fact is that the world of industry and commerce has drifted apart from the world of politics," he told the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry at a lunch last month. "The community identity between businessmen and municipal politicians has been lost."

By way of exoneration, he points to the Government's commitment to spend some

## Enterprise zones

## Signs of urgency welcome

Britain's first official enterprise zones are expected to be in business this summer. It will be quick work by Whitehall and by town hall standards, for the scheme was formally launched less than 12 months ago.

Since the aim is regeneration of decayed and depressed areas by offering private investment a short cut through the bureaucratic maze, signs of urgency are welcome. It was in his budget speech last year that Sir Geoffrey Howe announced the proposal to establish enterprise zones up and down the country as an experiment, an idea which had been in his mind for some months.

The zones will offer a number of advantages to businesses already there or moving into them. These include minimal planning requirements, quick decisions on those which are necessary, such as controls on pollution and noise, a 10-year holiday from rates for non-domestic property, 100 per cent capital allowances for both commercial and industrial premises, exemption from development land tax, removal of any requirements for industrial development certificates, and a final gift from officialdom, a reduction in government requests for statistical information.

Originally, seven sites of about 500 acres were suggested, one each in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the rest in England. But additions have brought the English total to eight.

According to the Department of the Environment, no more are proposed for the time being.

The basic criteria for the zones are as follows: they should be areas which have decayed both economically and physically, as distinct from the green field sites so attractive in the past to industrial developers; and the local authorities which will administer them must reach full agreement with Whitehall on defining sites and ensuring controls really are relaxed.

Progress may not be as fast as all would like, but dismantling planning machinery takes longer setting it up. Legislation was required, and was introduced in last year's Finance Act (to empower the Government to compensate councils for loss of rate revenue); and the Local Government Planning and Land Act. Some proposed zones straddle local authority boundaries, thus necessitating negotiations with two or more councils, and with other bodies such as water undertakings.

About half the suggested zones are now half way to the starting line, in as much as councils in England have been formally invited by the Department of the Environment to prepare enterprise zone schemes.

Much of this preliminary work has already been done, but local authorities must complete talks with other

statutory bodies, publish their proposals, modify them if necessary in the light of local reaction, wait six weeks for any legal challenge, then submit what is left to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

If he, in consultation with Sir Geoffrey Howe, approves a scheme, he will lay a designation order before Parliament for three weeks, to give any spoilsport MP a chance to pray against it. Failing that, an enterprise zone will be born.

Among those which have been the subject of formal invitations are 570 acres on Clydebank, nominated by Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, and 780 acres of Greater Manchester covering part of Salford Docks and Trafford Park. Another is part of the Blackbrook Valley at Dudley, West Midlands, where the council reported it had 300 inquiries from interested businessmen within a month of receiving notification on January 20.

Another departure from the 500-acre target came at the end of January, when Corby, Northamptonshire, was asked to prepare a scheme for some 280 acres. Local officials believe Mr Heseltine was impressed with their case when he visited the town, which was badly affected by closure of a British Steel plant there.

Another city, associated with steel, Sheffield, was not pleased when it was announced early in February

that two other small sites were under consideration, one near Hardespool, and the other at South Kirkby. This ended the aspirations of Sheffield's Attercliffe district, on the original list of promising sites put forward by the Government.

In typical fashion, the city council intends to respond by borrowing some enterprise ideas to promote local development and employment itself.

Lower Swansea Valley has been formally chosen as the Welsh site for a zone, Belvedere, nominated by Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, and 780 acres of Greater Manchester covering part of Salford Docks and Trafford Park. Another is part of the Blackbrook Valley at Dudley, West Midlands, where the council reported it had 300 inquiries from interested businessmen within a month of receiving notification on January 20.

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Patrick O'Leary

## Transport

## The M1 ushered in a new era

At 10 am on Friday, November 2, 1959, Mr Ernest Marples, then Minister of Transport, stood on the bridge over the northbound carriageway at Slip End, near Luton, and ushered in a new transport era.

Using a police car's radio telephone he gave orders for the barriers to be removed at 13 access points between St Albans and Dunstable, near Coventry. Rockets were fired and waiting motorists were waved by smiling police officers on to the broad new 72-mile highway of the M1.

Construction of the motorway took 586 days to complete—an average of one mile of dual carriageway road every eight days, and it was built on time. Since that momentous opening day, 1,300 miles of motorway have been built in Britain at a cost of £4,000m at today's prices.

The cost has been described in other terms by Mr John Tyne, the redoubtable anti-motorway campaigner, who once said: "Motorways are the greatest threat to Britain since the black plague. They destroy communities and other forms of transport, they drain the building programme for houses and schools, and they encourage the national dependence on the motor car. And all this because of the decisions taken by civil service mandarins influenced by the powerful road lobby."

Britain's latest and most complicated motorway pro-

ject is the completion of a 120-mile M25 orbital route round London, which is intended to take heavy through-traffic away from communities on the outskirts of London, but which ironically will destroy communities and the environment in its path.

The fact that it is now only one third complete, about a decade after the first sod was dug, is a reflection of both the ease with which Mr Marples ploughed his bulldozers through the path of objectors 21 years ago and on the influence today of environmentalists and academics who have questioned the value of Britain's road investments.

Mr Nick Lester, director of Transport 2000, the influential anti-roads group, said: "The philosophy of the past 20 years has been aimed at catering for the car. Look at Birmingham."

"In any road scheme the planners say 'There will be a demand for road space—we must fulfil it'. They have assumed there is a demand. But creating road space is like a self-fulfilling prophecy. If it's there, traffic will fill it. If it's not there you don't get the traffic growth."

About 150,000 cars a day enter central London at peak times, yet, according to Transport 2000, when the planners were designing the now aborted Ringway 1 in 1965 they forecast that there would be 400,000 cars arriving in the capital in 1980.

"If that road had been built," Mr Lester said, "the projection would undoubtedly have proved correct. But the congestion restrains traffic and people use buses, trains, Tubes and their feet."

In Birmingham the urban motorways are very good, aren't they? For getting out of Birmingham. The cost of rebuilding Birmingham has been colossal. And when you try to make it easier for people to drive in, with large wide roads and acres of car parks, you take people away from public transport. The result is a poor and expensive service, and the West Midlands bus service is generally regarded as the worst in the metropolitan counties."

"You have so many people in the county engineer's department who have been brought up believing in new roads and roads to relieve them when they become congested."

"You can't do away with the car. There are some things for which it will always be necessary. However, the better way is not to redesign our cities to cater for our transport but to redesign our transport to cater for our cities."

For the past two decades governments have based expensive road building plans on the economic need for fast industrial and port routes. But with the prospect of the main network of modern roads being complete by the mid-1980s, the present Government plans to spend only £800m during the next

four years—a much lower amount than at the peak level of the early 1970s.

Much of this money, according to the White Paper, *Policy for Roads: England 1980*, published last year, will be spent on bypassing 13 historic cities by the end of 1983.

The White Paper said: "There is an urgent need to relieve a number of towns and villages of the severe problems of congestion, noise, accidents and environmental damage caused by through traffic. The Government fully recognises the importance and the great environmental advantages of by-passes."

The move away from motorways has been welcomed by county councils and environmentalists alike, though the latter attribute the Government's recognition of environmental needs to financial constraints rather than to a change of philosophy.

This recognition, together with growing pressure for cheaper and better public transport, and new approaches to inner city traffic—such as the scheme at Oxford whereby motorists are encouraged to park outside the city and ride in by bus—may herald the start of another era in road transport, freer though less spectacular than the one begun by the building of the M1.

Michael Horsnell

مَكَدَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

# Early bird opportunities on Merseyside

Merseyside Development Corporation is about to become operational. It will bring on to the market hundreds of acres of dock and waterfront land and will be able to provide sites, finance and planning permission.

There will no doubt be some "early birds" who will want the choice of the tastiest morsels. They will recognise the potential of the historic docks and warehouses, seeing in them the future possibilities of:

shopping, entertainment and recreational facilities;  
luxury apartments overlooking the Mersey;  
waterfront restaurants;  
yacht berths and marinas;  
'bespoke' industrial locations and premises.

Those with such foresight will also see the current enthusiastic co-operation between County and District Councils and Merseyside Development Corporation develop into a symbiotic\* relationship which investors, developers and industrialists will realise is very much to their own advantage.

Jack Stopforth M.A., Marketing Manager,  
MERCEDO,  
(Merseyside County Economic Development Office),  
Tithebarn House, Tithebarn Street,  
Liverpool L2 2PH. 051-227 5234

Merseyside Development Corporation,  
Graeme House, Derby Square,  
Liverpool L2 7SU. 051-227 4111

\*SYMBIOSIS - a mutually beneficial partnership between organisations of different kinds.











## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## THE NEW PUBLIC MORALITY

The strike that began yesterday is no ordinary strike. It is an attack on the operations of the state by its servants; by the administrative, professional and executive grades of the civil service as well as by the manual and clerical grades.

After yesterday's showday the plan is to proceed by crippling selected essential functions of the state in the areas of defence and revenue raising; to do so in a way which relieves the few who withdraw their labour of most of the personal cost of doing so, and relieves their unions of the expense of an all-out strike; and to avoid the sort of strikes which particularly distress or enrage the general public. It is, as you would expect from professional administrators, a shrewdly designed plan of action.

The plan is justified in the minds of those who carry it out by reference to their collective grievance. To maintain the excellent relative position in pay which civil servants reached after the last two years' awards they reckon they need another 15 per cent now. The Government, mindful of its failure to control central expenditure as intended and of the size of the pay component in that expenditure, has offered 7 per cent. It has also abrogated the comparative (and inflationary) method of fixing civil servants' pay, without—and here it made a mistake—having ready any firm proposals for something to take its place.

That the civil servants have a grievance in trade union terms must be conceded. What strikes others is the grotesque disproportionality between the weight of their grievance and the breaches of trust they contemplate. First, they are kicking against 7 per cent and the loss of their automatic pay device at a time when private industry are taking as little, or less, or nothing at all. The offer may be at the low end of the scale of public sector awards in this pay round, but their jobs are secure and their pensions are proof at a time when two and a half million of their fellow citizens can get no job at all.

Second, in pursuit of their claim for more money they propose, if they can, to disrupt the flow of public revenue, the immediate implementation of budget resolutions, the gathering of foreign intelligence, and British participation in Nato exercises. So large a defection from duty by normally responsible public servants suggests that the habits and morality of trade unionism have now superseded any other public morality in the government of their conduct. And the new morality is preposterous even in its own context: the unveiling of a bust of Ernest Bevin, the greatest English trade unionist of the twentieth century, was unattended yesterday by any representative of the unions, even his own, other than a picket to keep all the others away.

This is the triumph of sectional over national objects. Yet on any but the narrowest view of their own sectional interest the civil servants are doing themselves down. They stand to suffer more than most from the kind of society where the public administration is unreliable, faddy, lacking in public spirit; and where the body politic is disabled by a kind of locomotor ataxia, its limbs incapable of executing the motions intended by its will.

The Government deserves to be stiffened by Parliament and the public to defeat this new encroachment on public standards by sectional grievance. It should lose no more time in bringing forward proposals for the regular determination of pay in the civil service of a kind which allow market forces to make themselves felt as well as inevitably artificial comparisons. It must address itself to extending the areas of public employment in which the right to withdraw labour is resigned by contract. It will be necessary to reconsider the policy of substituting civilian for service personnel where the former show that they can no longer be relied on to do their duty. Now that the Scott report has been published on the inflation-proofing of public service pensions the Government will be making up its mind about that question too. Part of the context for that decision is the public's sense of rough justice; if the civil service wishes to be treated well, let it behave well.

## Amending Canada's Constitution

From Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, MP for Tiverton (Conservative)

Sir, While I sympathise with what Lord Alport (March 5) seeks to do, the method which he recommends is technically defective in two respects: first, section 4 of the Statute of Westminster, 1931, expressly forbids the United Kingdom Parliament from amending (inter alia) the Statute of Westminster itself except at the request of and with the consent of each and every Dominion thereby affected. Such action would therefore require such "request and consent" from the Canadian Government.

Secondly, repealing section 7 of the Statute of Westminster would not have the effect which Lord Alport intends. It would not enable the Canadian Federal Government to amend the British North America Act, 1867, which being an Act of the United Kingdom Parliament, can only be amended by the United Kingdom Parliament.

Section 7 of the Statute of Westminster merely exempts from all the other provisions of the Statute of Westminster any measures for the "repeal, amendment or alteration of the British North America Act, 1867, or any order, rule or regulation made thereunder". Thus the effect of repealing section 7 of the Statute of Westminster, 1931, would be to bring such "repeal, amendment or alteration of the BNA Act, 1867-1930" within the scope of the Statute of Westminster, whose section 4 interdicts unilateral action by the United Kingdom Parliament.

Canada could then still not amend the British North America Act (and thus its own constitution): only the United Kingdom could amend those United Kingdom Acts.

There is, however, a simple way of doing what Lord Alport seeks to do, which is for the United Kingdom Parliament to enact unilaterally (as it is expressly entitled to do, pursuant to section 7 of the Statute of Westminster) my own Bill, which is currently before Parliament.

This has only one simple and comprehensive effective clause, which reads: "Her Majesty may, by and with the advice and consent of the Privy Council, in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, enact without restriction amendments to the British North America Act, 1867, and any public general acts amending its provisions".

Not only would this achieve the transfer from the United Kingdom to the Canadian Parliament the power to amend the Canadian Constitution, but it would have two other advantages: it places on the Canadian rather than the United Kingdom Parliament the task of making the amendments; and it makes in the Canadian Constitution, secondly, as a Bill with one effective clause rather than the "Trudeau Bill" with numerous ("57") clauses, only a limited spectrum of amendments would be in order to be introduced in the committee and report stages would therefore offer markedly fewer opportunities for abuse by tabling

hundreds of amendments with the purpose of wrecking the Government's parliamentary timetable. Yours faithfully, ROBIN MAXWELL-HYSLOP, House of Commons, March 5.

From Mr Ron Gostick

Sir, Your letter by Lord Alport, "Can Westminster decide for Canada?" (March 5), rightly expresses concern at the prospect of Westminster's becoming embroiled in the Canadian constitutional crisis which has arisen because of the unilateral action of our Federal Government against the wishes of the majority of our provinces.

Lord Alport offers a penetrating insight into the nature of this Ottawa request by noting that it is not the responsibility of the Westminster Government to pass judgment on the propriety of any Canadian bill of rights or division of provincial-federal powers. These are matters which should be dealt with in Canada, by Canadians.

The real reality is that our Prime Minister is attempting to "use" the British Parliament to do his dirty work for him. For years he has been attempting, without much success, to impose the French language upon all Canadian provinces. And the essence of his so-called "charter of rights" which he has now tucked on to his partition request is the imposition of his bilingual language policy. In other words, he is asking Westminster not simply to patriate the British North America Act, but to first change it to include so-called "rights" rejected by most of the Canadian provinces and Premiers.

It is interesting to note that Mr Trudeau in 1964, while still reaching constitutional law at university and before he joined the Liberal Party, addressing a conference of learned societies in Charlottetown, on Canadian constitutionalism, said: "Federalism is by its very essence a compromise and a pact... It is a pact or quasi-pact, in the sense that the terms of that compromise cannot be changed unilaterally."

In other words, the Canadian Confederation is composed of two "sovereignities", two parties to the agreement: the provinces and the Federal Government. And Mr Trudeau, neither party can change the terms of that pact without the consent of the other party.

While I appreciate the fact that her Majesty's Westminster Government may feel bound by precedent to attempt to introduce Mr Trudeau's request in Parliament, it is my hope that the members of the British Parliament, keeping in mind Mr Trudeau's own words of 1964, will not prematurely abrogate their custodial responsibilities. After all, to adopt Lord Alport's suggestion of the repeal of section 7 of the Statute of Westminster would appear to many as an act of abrogation.

I would suggest, rather, that the Westminster Parliament give a lead in asking the Canadian Parliament to work out a mutually agreeable request to Westminster.

Sincerely yours, RON GOSTICK, National Director, The Canadian League of Rights, Box 130, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, March 7.

## Remands in custody

From Mrs Rachel Gibbs

Sir, In his letter to you (February 18), the Honorary Secretary of the Justices' Clerks' Society drew attention to the plight of the accused who are committed for trial to the Crown Court in custody and commented on the fact that at this stage of the criminal process there is no periodic review of the case by a court or anyone else.

The Board of Visitors at Pentonville do in fact keep a close watch on the length of time remand prisoners spend in the prison and at its monthly meeting receive a list of inmates awaiting trial and held in custody for more than three months. Only recently my predecessor drew the attention of the Central Criminal Court to the number of remand prisoners awaiting trial at that court. On February 26 we had 18 inmates who had been awaiting trial for more than three months.

## Tower of Babel

From Mr Richard Cottrell, MEP for Bristol (Conservative)

Sir, Readers of The Times—and indeed your own political correspondent, Mr David Wood—should not feel that members of the European Parliament do not wish to resolve the "Tower of Babel" predicament which faces all the institutions of the European Community. It is perfectly true, as your correspondent suggested on February 25, that the situation has been allowed to drift.

However, as a Conservative who is deeply interested in good housekeeping in the European Parliament, I have produced a motion for a resolution which is not only intended to arrest the drift but also to set down new guidelines in advance of the accession of further member states.

My proposal is quite simply to create two language categories, instead of the present one. I have suggested to the Bureau of Parliament that all the present official languages—English, French, German, Italian, Danish, Dutch and Greek—retain that status but that a new category should be created of principal working languages. Only English, French, German and Italian would fall into this category. The result would be that members would retain the right to speak and be heard in their own tongues (in other words, interpreted in the Plenary of Parliament and in all official committee meetings) but working documents—other than the final decisions of Parliament—would only be translated into the principal working languages. By this means a great deal of the parliamentary paper-chase, where the real waste occurs, would be brought to an end.

Additional to this proposal is that no new language consequent upon accession of further signatories to

the treaties would be admitted to the status of principal working languages.

The reaction so far has been most interesting. Belgian Flemish-speaking, Dutch and Greek members have all indicated that they would rather not sign the motion—for quite obvious reasons of internal political pressure—but would be prepared to support it as a proposal on the floor of the House. In other words, the sense of reality is there and does ride above an essentially nationalistic approach to the question of language use in the Parliament.

Purists will say that my motion offends the original Regulation One adopted by the Council (in European terms) in ancient history. But nothing concerning the Community is or should be set in concrete—and that is why I added a rider to the motion suggesting that the proposal would serve as a useful guideline for other Community institutions.

Parliament's determination to settle in one fixed place of work, despite what the treaties might say and despite the refusal of the Council to achieve any progress in this area, is due largely to the impatience of backbenchers like myself—who over-ruled Parliament's own Bureau, who are thus proceeding towards a fixed place of work by a process of logic and I believe that the same will apply to the use of languages in the Parliament. Further, the inspiration for a solution to this problem—if not actually on the basis that I have advanced—is certain to come from the new backbench intake who entered the European Parliament with direct elections in 1979.

Yours sincerely, RICHARD COTTRELL, Combeside, Back Lane, Wexcombe, Wiltshire, Glos, Somerset, February 26.

## Future of the Tunncliffe collection

From Mr Denis Mahon, FBA

Sir, Both your Sale Room Correspondent's report (March 4) on the projected break-up by auction sale of the unique collection of his drawings which was the life-work of Charles Tunncliffe, RA, and the letter which followed it on March 7 from Mr Ian Presti make the fact clear that plenty of evidence exists that "the best-known bird and animal artist of this century" (your Sale Room Correspondent's description) wished that his measured drawings and sketch books should be preserved in a public institution for the public benefit.

Many members of the public whose interest becomes thus involved will feel highly critical of the ill-considered way in which the whole matter appears to have been handled by the executors, whose responsibility it was fully to investigate the possibility of reconciling Charles Tunncliffe's known wishes with the financial interests of his beneficiaries.

The public are indebted to Mr Presti for making clear the welcome news that the National Museum of Wales is anxious to provide a home for as much of the collection as possible for him. For years he has been attempting, without much success, to impose the French language upon all Canadian provinces. And the essence of his so-called "charter of rights" which he has now tucked on to his partition request is the imposition of his bilingual language policy. In other words, he is asking Westminster not simply to patriate the British North America Act, but to first change it to include so-called "rights" rejected by most of the Canadian provinces and Premiers.

It is interesting to note that Mr Trudeau in 1964, while still reaching constitutional law at university and before he joined the Liberal Party, addressing a conference of learned societies in Charlottetown, on Canadian constitutionalism, said: "Federalism is by its very essence a compromise and a pact... It is a pact or quasi-pact, in the sense that the terms of that compromise cannot be changed unilaterally."

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I would suggest, rather, that the Westminster Parliament give a lead in asking the Canadian Parliament to work out a mutually agreeable request to Westminster.

Sincerely yours, RON GOSTICK, National Director, The Canadian League of Rights, Box 130, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, March 7.

The longest wait has been for 13 months for an inmate who went for trial in November, 1980, at the Central Criminal Court but a retrial was ordered and a date has now been fixed for later this month.

Although a list of prisoners awaiting trial is sent from the prison every month to the Deputy Circuit Administrator, South East Circuit, the Pentonville Board of Visitors, being mindful of its "watchdog" role envisaged by the May committee, believes that this is one area in which it is admirably fitted to keep the proper authorities informed of the present situation with regard to prisoners held in remand in its own prison. We have been successful on several occasions in expediting court appearances.

Yours faithfully, RACHEL GIBBS, Chairman, Board of Visitors, HM Prison, Pentonville, Caledonian Road, N7, March 4.

The reaction so far has been most interesting. Belgian Flemish-speaking, Dutch and Greek members have all indicated that they would rather not sign the motion—for quite obvious reasons of internal political pressure—but would be prepared to support it as a proposal on the floor of the House. In other words, the sense of reality is there and does ride above an essentially nationalistic approach to the question of language use in the Parliament.

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Yours sincerely, RICHARD COTTRELL, Combeside, Back Lane, Wexcombe, Wiltshire, Glos, Somerset, February 26.

Yours faithfully, TERRY MILLER, Westcot Lane, Westcot, Near Wantage, Oxfordshire, Oxfordshire, February 26.

onuse by private treaty sale direct to the National Museum of Wales. It should be borne in mind that the proceeds of sales to that institution are, under paragraph 12 of schedule 6 to the Finance Act 1975, totally exempt from capital taxes—with the further considerable benefit that they are not aggregated with the rest of the estate.

In such circumstances, by any deal involving payment of more than the net sum which would accrue from a (taxable) sale at auction, the beneficiaries would benefit financially *pro tanto*, and the works thus purchased would join those which would already have entered the National Museum of Wales after being surrendered in satisfaction of tax. By way of illustrating the nature of the financial advantage, it may be pointed out that if the applicable tax rate were more than 50 per cent, the amount obtained by auction would have to be more than double the museums figure in order to produce the equivalent.

Accordingly, Mr Presti's campaign could be more constructively directed to assisting the funding of such acquisitions direct by the National Museum of Wales in a way in which the museum would pay less, and the beneficiaries gain more, than by open market sale.

It is greatly to be hoped that, in view of the wholly legitimate public concern, the executors and beneficiaries will seriously reconsider their plans for the break-up of the collection; and that they may decide to act in such a way as not only to advance the residuary legatees financially, but also to enable as much justice as possible to be done to the wishes of Charles Tunncliffe.

Yours faithfully, DENIS MAHON, 33 Cadogan Square, SW1, March 8.

From Mrs Elizabeth Whiteman

Sir, With reference to the proposed sale of the artistic estate of Charles Tunncliffe: the circumstances which may have forced the legatees to make this unfortunate decision may still be redeemed if the collection could be bought as a whole either by the nation or by a patron for the nation.

We cannot afford to let this great ornithological and artistic heritage slip from our grasp, never to be seen as a whole again.

Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH WHITEMAN, 77 Lower High Street, Thame, Oxfordshire, March 4.

From Sir David Napley

Sir, Mr David Flynn's letter to you, as he writes, that my advice that journalists who "misbehaved" be suspended from their jobs should go unchallenged (March 6) does not, I fear, do justice to my contention.

Those who defend, as I do, the freedom of the press, oppose the imposition of any unnecessary restriction upon them, but every group, be it a true profession or otherwise, has those who are prepared outrageously to flout the rules. In the process they do irreparable harm; thus the liberal professions couple with the right to practise the right to exclude those who, in the opinion of members of the profession in good repute, behave so as to bring the profession into disrepute.

If journalists wish to preserve their right to investigate, castigate and ensure the punishment of others who offend, they can hardly absolve themselves from subjection to a similar process. If a disciplinary body created by themselves or the Press Council, took power to recommend that those who, by its own standards, brought their profession into disrepute, be denied acceptance of their copy for a stated period of time by editors and others who value proper standards, it would at least provide some sanction for journalists, which is surely lacking today. One is not concerned, as he suggests, to condemn lapses of fact but to disregard of what is fair, just and legal.

Finally, whilst true of David Flynn and many like him that, as he asserts, "the journalist neither has nor claims any rights beyond the ordinary citizen and is certainly not true of all others. If he were at the same Conference of the Joint Committee the previous year he must have heard some of his colleagues assert, from the floor, that if the choice is between obtaining news and breaking the law then journalists must put themselves above the law. That is wholly unacceptable and, doubtless, it is those who hold this view who would be disciplined under the system which I advocate.

Yours truly, DAVID NAPLEY, 107-115 Long Acre, WC2, March 6.

From Mr George Scales

Sir, I am much against Russia as a political regime and in favour of Eton and other non-state schools ("Eton getting subsidised EEC butter", March 6). However, if the food mountain is to be reduced, selling surplus butter to Russia will achieve the objective, whereas selling it to schools and other bodies within the EEC will not, for the simple reason that those schools and other bodies would presumably buy other non-subsidised butter or margarine made from oilseed rape, an equally important EEC agricultural product.

The "mountain" can only be reduced either if the schools, etc. consume a greater overall quantity because of the subsidy than they otherwise would, which is extremely doubtful, or if the products are sold outside the EEC.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE SCALES, Cobblers Pieces, Abbeystead, Ongar, Essex, March 7.

From Mrs Ann Macdonald

Sir, Why pick on Eton? As I understand it any educational establishment is entitled to subsidised EEC butter. Mrs Buchan (report, March 6) does not say how many schools in the public sector take up this entitlement.

I imagine that most parents of Etonians are both tax and rate-payers and therefore subsidise not only their offspring's butter but also the local authority schools in their area.

Would Mrs Buchan prefer all schools to be deprived of the chance of cheap butter and for the butter mountain to be sold to Russia? On the other hand, perhaps she would prefer all schools except Eton to have cheap butter.

Yours faithfully, ANN MACDONALD, Radwinter Manor House, Saffron Walden, Essex, Essex, March 6.

## MR BREZHNEV'S PEACE CAMPAIGN

Mr Brezhnev has been following his normal habit of sending out letters to western leaders reinforcing his latest proposals on peace and disarmament. In many ways it is the mixture as before, a tricky jumble of propositions, some of which are made purely for effect, some of which are unacceptable, and some of which may contain genuine substance for negotiation. Nobody, for instance, would expect much of his proposed international committee to "demonstrate the vital necessity of preventing nuclear war". Nor could the west agree to freeze medium range nuclear missiles in Europe at their present level because that would leave Nato at a disadvantage. On the other hand his offer to extend military confidence-building measures to the Urals, while unacceptable in its present form, could lead somewhere.

The broader problem for the West, however, is to assess the trend of Soviet policy and to work out an appropriate policy of its own. The studied moderation with its avoidance of some of the more provocative Soviet formulations on world revolution, suggests that he really is anxious to open a dialogue with the new administration in Washington and to save what is left of détente. He wants a summit meeting with Mr Reagan. He wants negotiations on arms control. And he especially wants the Europeans to support him, though whether he is trying to split them from Washington or merely

hoping they will moderate Mr Reagan's ardour is an open question.

Some of the men around Mr Reagan will not be impressed. They believe that the whole Soviet "peace programme" is a vast trick designed to lull the West into a false sense of security while the Russians continue to arm, buy western technology, and gradually gain control of areas on which the West depends for oil and raw materials. They may admit that the Russians genuinely want to put some limits on the arms race but their answer is to start by building up American strength so as to negotiate from a position of parity.

This is a risky view which needs to be countered from Europe. Soviet defence spending normally rises by about 4.5 per cent a year. This rate of growth slowed to about 3 per cent in 1978-9 but is expected to pick up again from now on. What we cannot be sure about is the rate of economic growth. This has been slowing down steadily over the years, so that defence spending obviously takes a steadily growing proportion, probably about 12 per cent at present. If economic growth were to drop below 2 per cent a year the defence budget would begin to compete very sharply with other sectors of the economy, especially living standards, but if it stays above that level the Soviet

Union could sustain a fairly high level of defence spending through this decade without getting into much worse economic trouble than it is in already. It would therefore be unwise of the West to bank on beating the Soviet Union in an arms race. The political power of the armed forces and the high priority now given to military strength would ensure that military spending would be the last sacrifice to be made in any Soviet budget.

The West in general and the United States in particular must therefore combine the necessary strengthening of their defences with a serious attempt to re-open negotiations on arms control, and to lock the Soviet Union into the process in a way that will make it as difficult as possible for Mr Brezhnev's successors to get out. Apart from being the wisest policy for its own sake it is also the only way of reassuring those sections of western public opinion that are becoming increasingly nervous about the prospects of the arms race getting even further out of control than it already is.

But arms control on its own will not solve the problems of east-west relations. It has already been made to carry far too much political baggage. What the West needs is a much clearer idea of what it is trying to achieve in relations with the Soviet Union. Without this the Atlantic will grow steadily wider as Europe pursues hopes that are not shared in Washington.

## RUNNING RISKS WITH SEA LAW

The Reagan Administration's decision to withhold final agreement to the content of the law of the sea convention until it has reviewed its policy on deep-sea mining is unnecessary, short-sighted, and has potentially chaotic consequences for international relations. It is particularly unfortunate that the latest session of the law of the sea conference, which was also expected to be its last, should have so closely coincided with President Reagan's accession. The statement by which the State Department announced the decision, and the official explanations that followed, allowed all the signs of being put together by people who did not fully understand the issues at stake. The fact that the decision was taken, however, should not occasion surprise. The Republican Party's election platform last year was strongly antagonistic to those parts of the draft text of the convention which dealt with the system which would govern mining operations for manganese nodules on the sea-bed, and, although the subject was not in the foreground during the election campaign, President Reagan and his close advisers made it clear that they would support the United States' mining interests in their opposition to the arrangements proposed in the draft convention.

The mining companies claim that the existing text would require huge financial investment on their part without affording them anything like the returns which would make such investment attractive. Behind that apparently commercial objection lies a deep-rooted suspicion of placing their mining operations under the control of the proposed international seabed authority which could, they believe, be motivated by political rather than economic considerations. They are unhappy, too, about giving the knowledge and benefit of their advanced technology to possibly unfriendly countries of the third world.

These points are far from new. Over the past seven years, successive United States negotiators have argued them with skill and strength, and have, for the most part, succeeded in making the mining system far more advantageous to the United States than was the original scheme proposed. There were still some aspects to be negotiated, but it was not suggested that they were important enough to delay final agreement on the convention beyond the six weeks of the current negotiating session.

The Reagan Administration should not believe that, by adopting a tough stance, it can obtain a text of which the mining interests will approve. Far more likely is that such an approach

will result not just in continued disagreement over the mining clauses, but in the collapse of the whole negotiation. From the beginning, all the participating countries have accepted that the convention would be in the nature of a package. Compromises by one group of countries on one aspect would be met by concessions by other states on other issues. That delicate balance which has taken years to achieve, is in danger of falling apart if one country plays too crude a hand. So far, against the odds, it has held. The new intervention by the United States Government now places it in jeopardy. If the talks collapse, it would not mean that those parts of the text which have been agreed would continue to have at least a moral binding force. They would not become part of international customary law.

Instead, there would be the threat of maritime lawlessness, with countries reverting to acting according to their narrow interests, declaring 200 mile (or more) territorial seas, interfering with the freedom of navigation and unilaterally appropriating seabed resources. The consequences would not be limited to maritime issues. It would only be a matter of time before disputes spilled over into the arena of international politics. That cannot be in the interests of the United States.

## Keeping the public books

From Mr John Garrett, MP for Norwich, South (Labour)

Sir, Your leader on the report of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on our state audit system ("Parliament and the public purse", March 3) missed the most important reform that it proposed.

There is no doubt that the Comptroller and Auditor General was introduced by the 1866 Exchequer and Audit Act as the servant of the House of Commons and he was regularly described as an officer of the House until about fifty years

ago. Today, the Treasury maintains that he is no more than a witness to the PAC. He is appointed by the Executive, usually from the ranks of the higher Civil Service; his staff are recruited and graded by the Civil Service Department; the form of the accounts he audits is prescribed by the Treasury and his examination is a restrictive one of half of all public expenditure. As a result, ours is an exceptionally weak system of state audit compared with those of other western countries.

The PAC has recommended that the House of Commons should take control of the audit of all public expenditures and that a National

Audit Office should examine not only financial regularity but also the efficiency and effectiveness of the spending agencies, public and private. This activity is quite different from the scrutiny of present and prospective policy and legislation carried out by other select committees.

The proposals of the PAC are of constitutional importance because they represent an attempt greatly to extend Parliamentary scrutiny of the Executive.

Yours faithfully, JOHN GARRETT, House of Commons, March 5.







# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

**LAING**  
make ideas take shape

**Stock markets**  
FT Ind 482.9 down 6.2  
FT Gilt 68.61 up 0.25

**Sterling**  
\$2.2140 up 200 pts  
Index 99.1 up 0.4

**Dollar**  
Index 100.3 down 0.5  
DM 2.1150 down 175 pts

**Gold**  
\$477.50 up \$9

**Money**  
3 month sterling 12 1/2-13 1/2  
3 month Euro-S 15 1/2-16 1/2  
6 month Euro-S 16 1/2-17 1/2

### Budget squeeze fears send shares down but pound advances

By Our Financial Staff

City views on the Budget outcome varied yesterday. In the foreign exchange market, sterling strengthened towards the end of the day as European and American dealers moved to cover short positions in front of the speech by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

On stock markets, ordinary share prices fell on prospects that Sir Geoffrey will tighten the squeeze. The FT Ordinary Share Index ended at 482.9, down 6.2 on the day. Government stocks, however, made gains at the "long" end of the market.

The pound, which opened London trading nearly a cent down on Friday's close, steadied during the morning and then surged ahead in the afternoon, to close up 0.4 cents from Friday's 52.2140. The Bank of England's effective exchange rate index rose 0.4 on Friday's close to 99.1, reflecting gains against continental currencies as well as the dollar.

Dealers attributed sterling's strength yesterday afternoon to revised Budget expectations by investors abroad. They now expect a deflationary budget with 2 per cent rather than 3 per cent cut in minimum lending rate.

The pound was also boosted by a weaker dollar, in the wake of easier Eurodollar deposit rates and some uncertainty about the course of American interest rates over the next few months.

Optimism in the equity market which had high at the end of February with the FT ordinary share index rising to 502 on sound hopes of cuts in MLR larger than expected and help to industry, has slowly petered out.

Since then the index has hovered below 500 with leading stocks suffering and dividend reductions from ICI, Fisons and Unilever. By the middle of last week the market had changed its mind about the probability of reflationary measures as a boost to industry. On Friday the index fell 7.1 points to 482.9 and shares generally tumbled.

Apparent leaks at the weekend and merely served to change the fear. One dealer said: "We would say that about 90

per cent of the Budget has been leaked."

Gilt, which at one time were looking for a rise in MLR of as much as 3 or 4 per cent have since lowered their expectations. But yesterday they were the only stocks to move upwards with longer recording rises of a feeling in the money market is that there will be a 2 per cent MLR reduction.

Prices continued to drift lower in leading equities with ICI losing 4p to 246p, Glaxo 4p to 262p and Fisons was lower 3p to 130p. Distillers dropped 3p to 183p, Lucas Industries fell 6p to 179p and Hawkers dropped 4p to 282p.

Clearing banks took perhaps the worst falls with the market, nervous that they will not escape a windfall profits tax. A more subtle tax, in the form of loans to companies in trouble or further lending for the Export Credit Guarantee Department, now seems unlikely.

Shares in Barclays, which fell 8p last Friday to 398p, slipped another 8p to 390p and Lloyds dropped 6p to 305p, from 323p last week. Midland, which fell 14p on Friday to 321p, lost 3p. National Westminster dropped 3p to 348p, from 365p last week. Dealers, who were so sure only a month ago that a windfall tax would be avoided, feel that shares will not fall much further.

There is little doubt that the tobaccos and tobacco sectors face increased charges and they appear to have accepted the forecast duty rises. Unless there are a few surprises, such as a 4p rise on a pint of beer, the sectors are not expected to fall too drastically.

Allied Breweries and Bass closed unchanged at 64p and 210p respectively. Whitbread lost 10p to 149p and Grand Metropolitan closed 2p lower at 172p.

With a bottle of whisky forecast to rise by 5p, the distillers suffered slightly larger falls with Arthur Bell down 4p to 158p, Tomatin fell 3p to 99p and Invergordon 2p to 164p. Duty on cigarettes failed to lower shares in the tobacco sector with rises recorded by both BAT which rose 2p to 278p, and Imperial Group, up 14p to 731p.

Financial Editor, page 19

### Hungarian bank to get \$400m Euroloan

The National Bank of Hungary is believed to be raising \$400m (£180m) through a seven to eight year Eurocredit being arranged through Citicorp.

The loan is said to be a club deal with about six other banks and will bring the country's 1981 Euroloan total to \$550m. There has been market speculation that this new loan would be used to aid Poland, but sources said this was merely an opportune time for Hungary to complete its 1981 Euroloan borrowing.

### Robertson rejection

Robertson Foods has described the £19m offer from Avana, the Cardiff-based food group, as wholly inadequate and says shareholders would suffer a drop in income of 41 per cent if they accepted Avana shares.

Financial Editor, page 19

### £19m CEGB contract

Sir Alfred McAlpine & Son (Northern) has been awarded a £19m contract by the Central Electricity Generating Board for superstructure building work on the extension to Drax power station (Drax B).

### Tin pact warning

Delegates to the International Tin Council in Geneva were warned by Mr Peter Lai, their chairman, that if agreement was not reached at the current three-week session there might not be enough time to bring a new pact into operation.

### Halewood resumption

There was a full resumption of production of the Escort at the £125m Ford car plant at Halewood on Merseyside when 400 foremen and supervisors who had walked out on Friday reported back.

### Mill closure cost

Costs of redundancy and closure of Bowater's Ellesmere Port mill which employed 1,600 will be between £24m and £29m depending on the amount raised from the sale of assets.

### Aerospace flotation

British Aerospace's public flotation last month cost £3.6m, it was revealed in a parliamentary answer. The bulk of the cost was the 13 per cent underwriting commission on the price of the shares, which were offered at 150p.

### Ford steel cuts

Ford plans to cut its steel-making operations sharply in Michigan, unless its 5,000 steelworkers agree to pay cuts.

### Spanish agreement

Spanish unions and employers have reached an agreement on restructuring the steel industry after four months of negotiations and almost four years of delays.

### Wall Street higher

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 11.80 points up to 976.42. The S-DR was 122.64. The £ was 0.559231.

### Way clear for Cable & Wireless sale

By Patricia Tisdall

The Government intends to sell just under half its shares in Cable & Wireless, the State-owned international communications business, in the autumn as soon as the necessary legislation is enacted.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Industry and Information Technology, told the Commons yesterday that discussions with the 30 or so overseas countries where the company operates had produced no objections.

The Government had therefore decided to implement the disposal, subject to obtaining the necessary powers in the British Telecommunications Bill.

Mr Baker expected the sale to raise more than £100m. The eventual figure is expected to be considerably more, with sums of £150m to £175m, mentioned speculatively. Proceeds will go direct to the Exchequer.

A particular worry has been that disposal of government shares would impair Cable & Wireless's ability to negotiate contracts overseas. Fears have also been expressed by among others, Lord Glenamara, the former chairman, that the sale

could trigger nationalization moves from foreign governments where strategic communication links are involved.

Mr Eric Sharp, who succeeded Lord Glenamara as chairman four months ago, said yesterday that "there was no absolute guarantee" against nationalization abroad.

He said that privatization would probably mean that subsidiary companies would have to be recast through joint venture subsidiaries or through other changes of structure, with Bahrain and Hongkong singled out for particular mention. Together these two territories represent between 55 and 60 per cent of the company's revenue.

Mr Baker said that the move, which has been criticized by Opposition MPs as dogmatic, was aimed at providing "commercial flexibility and access to financial markets" and to exploit the growth and opportunities in telecommunications.

Mr Sharp said there had never been any problem in raising finance for expansion in the past. The company which already operates outside the cash limit constraints which affect strictly nationalized com-

panies is spending about £100m a year at present on investment programmes. About two thirds of this was raised from internal sources and one third from the government. However, given the explosion in demand for telecommunication services Mr Sharp expected the expansion budget to double during the next three years.

"Privatization would ease the scope for joint ventures and enable funds to be raised more easily without recourse to the market," he said.

According to Mr Baker the fact that the British Government would retain a controlling stake in the company provided a solution with which the 30 or so foreign franchisees "feel very comfortable".

While details have still to be worked out, there would be radical arrangements made for the 11,600 employees of the company to acquire shares. Because about three-quarters of these are based abroad, there could be no question of confining the sale to British nationals.

Mr Baker assured the Commons that the Government did not intend to interfere with the company's commercial freedom.



Mr Eric Sharp: trend to joint venture companies.

"The Government intends to refrain from using its rights as a shareholder to intervene in the company's commercial decisions."

While direct competition with British Telecom was ruled out as a future activity for Cable & Wireless Mr Sharp indicated that there was a possibility of joint activities particularly in voice and data transmission abroad.

Parliament, page 4

### Miners find it hard to spend £40m

By Ronald Kershaw

The Mineworkers' Pension Fund, which wants to invest up to £40m a year in viable industrial projects in Britain, is having problems spending the money.

It has already invested in "nursery" units to provide premises for new businesses, but is now finding itself with money available and nowhere to place it.

The fund, which has assets of more than £600m, has even arranged seminars in five main cities to publicize the facilities which it is able to offer.

The money is paid into the fund by the National Coal Board and its employees, and a spokesman said last night: "We would be more than delighted to consider making further investments in viable enterprises. I must stress that the key word is viable, because we have to protect the interests of our members."

"We tend to give priority to worthwhile enterprises in the coalfields. If people feel they would like to take advantage of the facilities we offer they have only to contact us."

"Having said that, we are bound by normal commercial considerations. We would look into the potential of a project and we would want to know about the people who are running it."

The spokesman said: "Our problem is finding sufficient viable enterprises in which to invest." It is not only looking for new companies, but also companies wishing to expand their activities would be likely recipients of assistance, particularly if their plans included switching to coal-burning plant.

### BSC ready to set up 'private' offshoots

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor: The formation of the first of a series of companies to run businesses of the British Steel Corporation and pave the way for eventual privatization is expected to be announced within the next few weeks.

Mr MacGregor, the corporation's chairman, is considering establishing Companies Act companies to run the Stanton and Staveley pipemaking grouping and British Steel Service Centres, the stockholding division whose pricing policies are under attack from private stockholders.

The way was prepared for the

establishment of private sector style companies to carry out corporation business last month when the Government agreed to the latest corporate plan and committed £880m over the next year.

There has been increased criticism from private steel producers of the corporation's pricing, but the formation of separate companies, especially in those areas where the corporation competes with private concerns, is seen as an effective way of allaying fears and restoring confidence in the corporation's activities more "transparent".

The steel corporation is expected to make the first move

with Stanton and Staveley. There are three main centres employing a total of 4,650 workers producing concrete pipes, spun iron pipes and an associated foundry operation.

Demand for these products has weakened, with the recession and output has been trimmed because of the cutback in local authority spending.

The creation of a private sector style company to run the activities of the stockholding subsidiary, which accounts for about 15 per cent of the market would be more significant.

Over the past few months

independent stockholders have claimed that British Steel Service Centres was cutting prices unfairly to build up the volume of orders at corporation mills.

The National Association of Steel Stockholders has admitted that proof is hard to establish, but claims to have gathered sizeable volume of circumstantial evidence.

Mr MacGregor is expected to be questioned about his plans for the corporation and the prospects of a return to financial stability when he gives evidence tomorrow before a all party committee of MPs which is launching a new investigation into the corporation.

### BL will use foreign suppliers if UK cannot meet Metro demand

Clifford Webb

Midland Industrial Correspondent

BL has warned its British component suppliers that it will not hesitate to bring in continental rivals if their deliveries fail to keep pace with its plans to increase production of the Metro, which now accounts for half its total car sales.

It has already nearly doubled production in the four months since the car was launched— from 2,000 Metros a week to 3,900—and wants to reach 4,250 by the middle of next month. Maintaining the pace of the Metro's success is so vital to BL's recovery plans that Mr Harold Macgregor, head of all the group's car operations except Jaguar, has personally threatened to supply delays is lost business.

A senior executive of one component manufacturer said yesterday: "Mr Macgregor told us last week that BL has let us down in the past by failing to keep to its forward order schedules, those days are now over."

He pointed out that since the car was launched in October production has run ahead of its targets and he expects us to keep our end of the bargain.

"Metro business is like manna from heaven at the moment with the motor industry in the depths of recession. It is well ahead of all other car business and we shall be fighting like hell to see that it stays here."

Trade unions must be kept in the picture about BL's future plans, Mr Kenneth Gill, general secretary of the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said yesterday.

On reports of extended collaboration between BL and Honda, Mr Gill said: "We want no sell-out of BL. Any deal with another company should be developed on the basis of BL becoming a full-range car and commercial vehicles producer operating on a world scale."

"Anything else, such as BL assembling more Honda models in Britain, would do nothing for BL's long-term prospects."

The next few weeks will be critical. Metro has just gone on sale on the Continent with a target of 100,000 a year— enough to double BL's present sales in Europe to 200,000 in France and 20,000 in Italy, with the rest spread between the Benelux countries and Germany.

Until it has sufficient sales returns on which to base reliable projections of Honda, the introduction of a third Metro trim and assembly line at Longbridge.

But the ground is already being prepared. Production of the Allegro is to be moved to 800 a week, allowing management to shut down one of the two lines in an adjoining assembly shop. This will clear the way for Mini production of about 1,200

a week to be switched from the Metro shop, vacating the third line for its newer brother.

An indication of BL's growing confidence in its workers is its plan to increase Metro line speed from the 25 an hour reached during the past two months to 28.5 an hour next month. Only a year ago such a radical move would have led to months of acrimonious talks with shop stewards and almost inevitably a strike.

Since the beginning of the year Longbridge production has exceeded 6,000 cars a week. Using the industry's best yardstick, percentage of gross line rate, means something in excess of 90 per cent—an almost unheard of achievement for the state-owned group.

A 25 per cent increase in productivity is putting another £15 a week into pay packets under a new incentive scheme. But more significantly Metro is giving Longbridge workers a pride they have not had for a long time.

Unconfirmed weekend reports from Tokyo suggesting that Honda was to extend its collaboration with BL to include the manufacture of the Metro in Japan has added more icing to the cake.

Whatever the truth—and there are serious doubts—the fact that Mr Kiyoshi Kawasaka, president of Honda, should float the idea shows that the all-conquering Japanese have been so impressed by Metro's success that they want to be associated with it, if in name only.

### US seeks curbs on Japanese cars

From Our US Economics Correspondent

Washington, March 9.

America is pressing the Japanese to agree on voluntary restraints on car exports, Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the Secretary of Commerce, told a congressional hearing today.

Keyed to decisions are expected to be taken within the next two weeks on aid to the ailing American car industry.

Mr William Brock, the American Trade Representative, said that the Reagan administration favoured government - to - government negotiations in solving trade disputes. He opposed legislation that would set specific limits on the number of Japanese cars sold here.

Proposals are being developed in the Senate to legislate import quotas and these have strong support from the United States car manufacturers and the United Auto Workers Union.

The administration believes that it must reach a swift pact with the Japanese and complete its car aid programme most rapidly if it is to avoid facing intense congressional pressure for outright protectionist actions.

In May last year, the group decided to pull out of casino operations and has since sold eight in the provinces for a £5.6m surplus over book value. C&PGH was also responsible for running Ladbroke's lottery activities and its bingo and social clubs. Last year it withdrew from lottery consultancy and will now run only the bingo social club activities. The subsidiary is expected to earn a trading profit of £3.5m before tax and extraordinary items in the year to last December.

Philip Robinson

### £200,000 in golden handshakes marks the end of a gaming venture

#### Ladbroke's says up for the bet that failed

Ladbroke is to pay more than £200,000 in "golden handshakes" to six directors of City & Provincial Gaming Holdings, the company set up 16 months ago in an attempt to save the gambling licences of its four London casinos. C&PGH will now be directly responsible to the Ladbroke main board.

Mr Cyril Stein, Ladbroke chairman, said: "I think the payments are fair and reasonable considering the executive directors have been with the group for eight or nine years."

City & Provincial was set up in October, 1979 as a holding company independent of the Ladbroke main board, which the group hoped would enable the London casinos to continue to operate.

The move failed and during a court case which branded Lad-

broke as not "fit and proper persons" to hold a gaming licence, the group lost licences for the Park Tower in Whitebridge, the Regency Club, the Park Lane Casino and the Ladbroke Club. Negotiations are in progress to sell three of these, but not as casinos.

Highest of the C&PGH termination payments goes to Mr Geoffrey Sprackley, one time Ladbroke main board member, who ran Ladbroke Entertainment and was managing director of C&PGH, and Mr Michael Surridge, a director of a number of Ladbroke subsidiaries.

Mr Sprackley receives £94,800 plus £15,206 which would have been paid to Ladbroke's executive pension scheme. Mr Surridge will receive £48,885.

Mr Roy August, former group chief accountant of Ladbroke

and finance director of C&PGH, will receive £20,000.

Mr Sprackley, Mr August and Mr Surridge will also retain the use of company cars, which had a book value at the end of last year of £15,540 and will have the option to buy them.

Mr Edward Choppin, the chairman, will receive £15,000 and three non-executive directors will be paid £10,000 each. Mr Sprackley has the option to continue with Ladup the casino-operating subsidiary of C&PGH, on a six-month consultancy at £1,500 a month and Mr August is to have a three-month consultancy agreement at £500 a month.

Taking C&PGH under direct control of Ladbroke marks the end of its involvement in casino, which had been developed in the decade from

1968 when as a publicly quoted company it rose from owning 100 to so betting shops to having the country's largest chain of betting offices and being the United Kingdom's biggest casino operations.

In May last year, the group decided to pull out of casino operations and has since sold eight in the provinces for a £5.6m surplus over book value. C&PGH was also responsible for running Ladbroke's lottery activities and its bingo and social clubs. Last year it withdrew from lottery consultancy and will now run only the bingo social club activities. The subsidiary is expected to earn a trading profit of £3.5m before tax and extraordinary items in the year to last December.

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### PRICE CHANGES

Rises					
Broken Hill	25p to 705p	MTM Hedges	7p to 203p		
Carlisle Ind.	8p to 223p	Royal Worcester	12.35p to 275p		
Baden Carrier	6p to 212p	Staffs Pottery	5p to 58p		
Hampton Gold	15p to 225p	Weeks Pot	10p to 425p		
Kinross	13p to 544p	Western Mining	7p to 249p		
Falls					
De La Rue	15p to 615p	Joseph L.	10p to 253p		
Electronics	20p to 648p	Lasma	10p to 612p		
First Castle	9p to 95p	Scholes G. H.	25p to 225p		
GUS "A"	15p to 468p	Shell	8p to 230p		
Guthrie	12p to 750p	Unitech			

### THE POUND

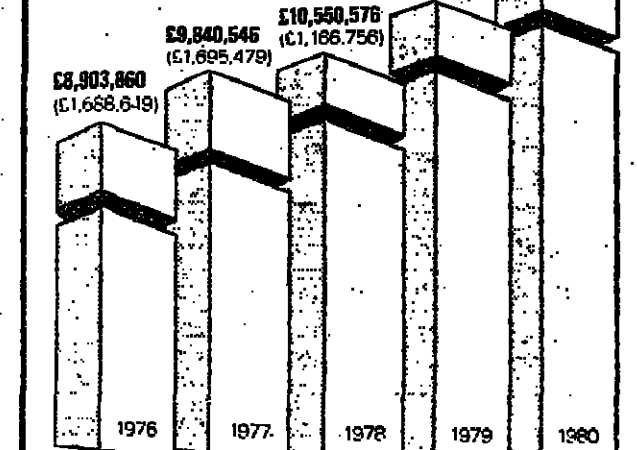
	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.95	1.87	Norway Kr	12.35	11.70
Austria Sch	34.70	32.50	Portugal Esc	126.00	120.00
Belgium Fr	81.25	77.25	South Africa R	2.05	1.91
Canada \$	7.68	7.59	Spain Ptas	193.50	184.50
Denmark Kr	15.25	14.45	Sweden Kr	10.65	10.10
Finland Mmk	9.42	9.32	Switzerland Fr	4.45	4.20
France Fr	11.30	10.80	USA \$	2.24	2.17
Germany Dmk	1.84	1.80	Yugoslavia Dr	75.50	73.00
Greece Dr	115.00	109.00			
Hong Kong \$	12.00	11.40			
India Rupee	13.75	13.25			
Italy Lira	2330.00	2220.00			
Japan Yen	479.00	453.00			
Netherlands Gld	5.32	5.06			

### TSL Thermal Syndicate Ltd.

PO Box 6, Neptune Road, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, NE28 6DG

"The economic conditions have worsened in the current year, but no action has been taken if it was considered contrary to your Company's long term interests and, indeed, we are increasing the scale of those research and development programmes which are vital to our future."

J E Bywater—Chairman



Year to 31st October	1980	1979
Turnover	£15,037,888	£12,644,289
Profit before tax	£1,400,639	£1,377,376
Taxation	£236,099	£477,133
Profit after tax	£1,164,540	£90



## Stock markets

## Gilts in demand but equity prices tumble

The prospect of an unimpressive Budget sent a nervous shudder through the market and equities tumbled further.

Jobbers marked prices sharply lower from the outset in an attempt to discourage further selling and keep their books "level" after Sir John Gifford's speech. This followed gloomy weekend newspaper reports which offered little hope of a recovery.

Nevertheless, business was thin and most sellers had completed their transactions by mid-morning, at which point the index was showing a fall of 6.6 points. Leading industrialists again bore the brunt of the falls although one or two cheap buyers were seen at the lower levels. Sentiment was again not helped by the one-day strike by civil servants and the strength of the pound which rose 2 cents to £2.2140.

By the close the FT Index had recovered slightly to register a fall of 5.6 to 483.5.

Government securities on the other hand were in great favour with dealers almost certain of a 2 per cent cut in the minimum lending rate to 12 per cent. Buying in a thin market hoisted prices in long by as much as £1 at the close while in shorts the gains were restricted to around £1.

Dealers seemed surprised by the latest surge in demand. Most were betting on a 2 per cent fall in interest rates but had not ruled out the possibility of a 3 per cent reduction.

Leading industrialists again led the market down as the lack of investment demand saw prices drift throughout the day. Further worries of reduced dividends saw Dunlop fall 2p to 59p and Lucas Industries 6p to 179p.

Both ahead of figures due out soon. Meanwhile, among those to have already announced reduced dividend payments, ICI fell 4p to 246p, Unilever 5p to 478p, Fisons 3p to 130p. GKN remained unchanged at 138p. Others to lose ground included Glaxo 4p to 282p, Beechams 1p to 162p, Courtaulds 2p to 59p and Hawker Siddeley 4p to 282p.

Banks, now faced with the prospect of a windfall profits tax, encountered further losses as jobbers deterred prospective buyers by marking prices lower in generally thin conditions.

Barclays was 8p cheaper at 390p followed by Lloyds 6p to 305p, with National Westminster on 348p and Midland on 318p shedding 3p each.

The prospect of increased duty also did little for drinks and tobacco, although here losses were minimal. Dealers in breweries said that a rise of up to 3p a pint had been generally discounted so Allied closed all square at 64p along with Bass at 210p, but falls of 2p were seen in Whitbread at 149p and Grand Metropolitan at 172p.

On the bond front, Bond St Fabrics rose 4p to 34p after the bid approach from Grove, but NCC Energy dipped 2p to 114p on profit taking after last week's announcement that it was in talks with United Nuclear Corporation of the United States.

Davy Corporation continued to reflect the reference to the Monopolies Commission of the Enactment bid, sliding another 1p to 148p. British Sugar, held

spirits left Distillers 3p easier at 163, Arthur Bell 4p at 158p, Tomatin 3p at 99p, Highland Distillers 3p at 89p and Invergordon 2p at 164p. In tobacco several small improvements were to be seen in Imperial Group, 11p higher at 73p, and BAT's 2p up at 278p.

Shares closed generally easier in light trade. Early support for supermarkets, which have reported demand for pre-Budget cigarettes and drinks, soon faded. Tesco closed with a 1p net rise on the day at 57p, but J. Sainsbury softened 1p to 335p, after 338p. Elsewhere, Marks & Spencer 2p to 118p and Boots 4p to 228p.

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steadily at 268p still awaiting the findings of the report into the bid from S & W Berisford. Talk of a bid from Hawker Siddeley, to mop up the rest of Carlton Industries saw the price re-

plant topped 5p from Reed International at 210p. Reduced dividend and a disappointing profits statement left Geo H. Scholes 25p down at 223p and wiped 13p from Neil Spencer at 44p. Others to lose ground included S. W. Farmer 2p to 150p and R. Green 2p to 87p, while the profits contraction at Parker Knoll was fully expected so the shares held steady at 110p. However, the small improvement in profits at Galliford Brindley was rewarded with a 2p rise to 74p.

BTR, which is waiting figures, fell 6p to 388p. Reflecting recent changes, the 7p share of Campari International rallied 4p to 52p and Telefonos 'A' improved 4p to 38p.

Still making the most from the Royal wedding preparations, the interim dividend in 1.6p gross. The largest division is building and development, followed by civil engineering with the emphasis on road and bridge work, heating and air conditioning with plant hire bringing up the rear. The group has no debt, and maintains cash balances.

This conservative policy apparently encourages suppliers who are eager to do business with Galliford, and customers who are confident that the group has the resources to carry out contracts. But engineering and plant hire have been "severely affected" by a drop in demand, though the main construction companies did well.

The dividends are small compared with earnings a share of 6.36p. For the whole of last year they came to 15.74p, and the total dividend was 6.6p gross. Pretax profits were nearly £3.2m.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
1st of Feb	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Bogod Petepah (I)	3.06(2.53)	0.03(0.22)	(-)	0.1(0.19)	23/4	9.17(9.17)
S W Farmer (F)	15.4(13.6)	1.6(1.2)	26.14(25.37)	1.13(1.13)	2/4	4.63(4.13)
Galliford Brindley (I)	35.3(30.4)	2.35(1.29)	6.36(6.09)	0.7(0.7)	27/4	(2.2)
R Green (I)	1.87(2.16)	0.5(0.74)	2.42(3.35)	2.4(-)	10/4	(2.55)
Merchants Tst (F)	(-)	3.4(3.05)	4.2(3.8)	0.0(0.1)	5/8	2.1(3.5)
Murray Glendev (I)	(-)	0.23(0.2)	0.1(0.13)	0.7(2.1)	17/4	(7.0)
Nell & Spencer (F)	27.4(21.9)	1.13(1.05)	8.9(15.5)	2.5(2.5)	13/5	(8.1)
Parker Knoll (I)	13.3(15.2)	0.39(1.02)	5.0(15.1)	4(6)		
G H Scholes (I)	6.72(7.27)	0.39(1.02)	5.0(15.1)	4(6)		

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on a per share basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. \* Loss.

## Double Eagle raises £933,000 with placing

By Catherine Gunn  
Double Eagle Energy & Resources has raised £933,000 through a private placing of 350,000 new shares.

The company, which was not named, committed themselves to the shares last week when the £93 placing price—roughly 267p—was at a premium to the market price.

Double Eagle's shares closed at 300p yesterday, up 10p. Under the rules of the Vancouver Stock Exchange, shares placed privately cannot be sold for 12 months. The placing brings Double Eagle's issued capital to 5m shares, and dilutes Warrior Resources holding from around 24 per cent to about 22 per cent.

The money will be used in new ventures, to be revealed in two weeks' time, and to exploit existing interests in Oklahoma and New Mexico.

## TDG to acquire US freight company for \$14.5m

By Catherine Gunn  
Transport Development Group, which failed with a £22m bid for Gilspur last autumn, is spending \$14.5m (£6.6m) on a California freight company, Willing Freight Lines.

The acquisition marks the start of a campaign at TDG to build up a presence in the United States.

"We have been looking for a sizable company as a base", Mr James Lockhart, managing director, said yesterday. The group would like to add warehousing and other freight operations to this base.

Willing Freight Lines was bought through TDG's American holding company, Transport Holdings Inc, a shell company formed to make acquisitions. Mr Eric Anderson, chief executive and former principal shareholder, is to continue to run Willing and has entered into a seven year service agreement. He has sold his holding

## SW Farmer holds payout despite setback

S. W. Farmer, the south London structural steel group, had a more difficult second half last year but managed to hold the decline in profits to £175,000 at £1.02m in the year to December 31. Sales in the second half rose by a tenth to £7.4m after a one seventh gain in the opening six months and margins were squeezed by higher operating costs.

Mr Brian Farmer, the chairman, says that trading is still depressed but that there has been an upturn in enquiries recently and that strenuous efforts are being made to improve orders worldwide.

Underlining the group's confidence, and the bonus to the balance sheet from a tax credit of £500,000, the new stock market measures, which has boosted retentions by almost a half to £917,000, the dividend is being held at 13.1p gross, where the yield on the shares, which dropped 2p to 150p yesterday, is 8.7 per cent.

## S and W Berisford expects tough year

Mr Ephraim Margulies, chairman of S and W Berisford told shareholders at the annual meeting that the board has now reviewed its trading results for the first four months of the current financial year, and the picture "is not one to inspire unmitigated pleasure".

So far the secondary metals division has been the hardest hit. A fall in output in much of the United Kingdom engineering sector has caused both a severe drop in the volume of available raw materials for processing, and a much lower demand for products, particularly secondary aluminium. But much remedial action is being taken, and all companies in the group are taking positive and effective steps to slim down overheads and raise operating efficiencies.

In conclusion Mr Margulies said that whilst he cannot pretend to be optimistic for the current year he is far from pessimistic.

Profits of Manchester-based electrical engineering group George H. Scholes fell heavily in the half-year to Dec 31. Pretax profits slumped from £1.02m to £390,000 on sales down from £7.27m to £6.72m. Earnings per share, at 5p, are only a third of the previous half-year's 15.1p and the interim dividend is being cut from 8.57p to 5.17p gross.

The board explains that the recession, coming as the company was increasing expenditure on diversification and expansion, has hit profitability, as capital investment has not been replaced last autumn—down 10 per cent on the labour force—and the company is now in a better position when more favourable conditions return.

R. Green Properties looks for upturn  
With turnover down from £2.16m to £1.67m, pretax profits of R. Green Properties slipped from £742,000 to £508,000 in the six months to December 31, 1980.

However, the board expects a much improved second-half performance, "leading to a satisfactory year's total, but which is unlikely to top the record figures for 1979-80. The interim payment is unchanged at 1.0p gross a share.

Marinex forms US subsidiary  
Marinex Petroleum has formed an American subsidiary, to look after its growing US oil and gas exploration interests. This marks a departure from the original intention to con-

centrate on exploration in Britain for which Marinex raised £8.6m in July 1980, at 160p a share. Yesterday the shares quoted under rule 163, closed unchanged on the day at 155p. Directors own 80 per cent of the equity.

Marinex is spending a total of US \$2.5m (£1.14m) on a mixture of high and low risk joint ventures in Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas; and \$1.5m (£583,000) on Spanish offshore exploration. Mr Dan Williams, managing director of Marinex, remains optimistic about the company's prospects in Southern England.

There is no likelihood of dividend payments for some time.

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## Loss ends rapid profits growth at Neil &amp; Spencer

By Michael Prest  
A collapse from pretax profits of £1.74m in 1979 to a loss of £264,000 last year pushed shares in Neil & Spencer, the laundry, heating and air-conditioning equipment manufacturer, down 13p to 44p yesterday. The loss ends five years of rapid profit increases.

Mr Stephen Proctor, chairman and managing director, said that the company had been badly affected by reductions in government expenditure. But despite the poor second half a dividend of 1p gross has been declared. The 1979 final dividend was 3p gross.

This brings the full year payout to 3p gross compared with 5p gross in 1979. The board considers that Neil & Spencer's prospects are improving, particularly in sales of military equipment.

Westair-Hargreave, a manufacturer of process drying machinery and specialized equipment such as locks and solar heating systems, was bought at the end of 1979 for £1.7m. Profits were then running at about £550,000 a year, and the company has recently

won orders worth £1m to supply filtration and air conditioning equipment to the Australian, British and Jordanian armies.

But despite an increase in sales from £21.9m to £27.4m in the year, about £2.2m below the indication given by the board's last annual report, trading profits dried from £2.18m to £857,000.

The loss was struck after interest charges more than doubled from £437,000 to £925,000. In 1979 the company arranged a £500,000 loan from County Bank to refinance overdrafts and to help with acquisitions.

Reorganization expenses, litigation over a trade name and adjustments added exceptional expenditure of £199,000 to losses compared with nil in 1979. Final earnings were aided by a tax credit of £204,000 leaving earnings a share of 0.4 against 10.3p.

The strength of sterling receipts, compared with nil in 1979, and exports, which now depend on government spending, especially in the military sector, to restore Neil Spencer's growth record.

## Sears buys shoe group for \$100m

By Our Financial Staff  
Sears Holdings, the British Shoe Corporation, Selridge and William Hill conglomerate with interests in engineering and property, has completed the acquisition of the Butler Shoe division of Zale Corporation of America, known chiefly for its 1,300 jewelry outlets throughout the United States.

Sears paid \$100m (£43m) for a group with about 500 retail outlets in 39 states of the United States. Butler made pretax profits of \$17m (£7.8m) in

the year to March 31, 1980, but subject to annual review. The "slightly" this year.

The completion of the deal ends a three year search for a big United States acquisition. In the year to January 31, 1980, trading profits from the United States and Canada were £1.93m, derived from sales of £32.5m. Total sales were £1,258m and profits £96m.

The acquisition also emphasizes Sears Holdings as a group with names like Sears, Roebuck & Co., Skinner, Dolcis, Manfield and Freeman, Hardy Willis, shoes made profits of £59m before interest on sales of £367m in 1979-80.

Save & Prosper takes stake in Exco Securities  
By Our Financial Staff  
Save & Prosper, the unit trust group, is acquiring 11 per cent of Exco Securities (1979), the parent of City money brokers Astley & Pearce and Godsell.

The £2.9m worth of shares and convertible loan stock is coming from shareholdings of directors and staff, who will retain almost 65 per cent of the equity. The British & Commonwealth shipping group also controls 25.3 per cent, which it purchased three years ago from discount house Gerrard & National.

Mr John Gunn, Astley's managing director, expects the link-up with another financial services group to produce business opportunities including possible joint ventures along the lines of those operating with Guinness Mahon at present. Exco's pretax profits in 1980 were about double the year before at £5.75m.

Mr Leonard Sainer, chairman of Sears Holdings, said the year to March 31, 1980, but subject to annual review. The "slightly" this year.

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## Briefly

Cystic Fibrosis Research Investment Trust: Subscription list respect of debenture stock closed at 157,450 stock representing approximately 20 per cent of the amount offered.

Glendevon Investments Trust: Interim dividend 1.25p (1.14p). Pretax revenue for half year to January 1, 1980, £1.14p (1.14p). Estimated for year to July 31, 1980, £1.14p (1.14p). Estimated for year to July 31, 1980, £1.14p (1.14p).

Pirelli General Cable Works Ltd: Pretax profit £2.38m (£2.43m). CCA figures show, after tax £1m (loss £2.5m). Board proposes that £500,000 of profit be carried forward to 1981.

Anglo-Indonesian Corpn: Shareholders have approved acquisition of shares of 500,000 ordinary shares already owned. Also group has entered into two further contracts with third party to purchase at 40p each a total of 150,000 ordinary shares in Ewa.

Prince of Wales Metals: Mr A. J. Clayton, chairman, has issued a circular to shareholders, giving details of the proposed acquisition of Variety Inns, that is to say, to management on outstanding £1.5m, which has just closed. The current economic climate is difficult, directors look for a year with cautious optimism to plant factory trading to enlarged group.

Berkeley Exploration and Production: Directors have decided to call outstanding 50p per share ordinary shares. It will be paid for payment on or before July 11. Costs PLC, the shares' transfer agent in Grimsby, has acquired assets and goodwill of the latter France, initial will have a 25 per cent interest in the restructuring.

Initial Services has agreed terms subject to approval by the relevant French authorities, for merging with Paris-based textile retail subsidiary, La Societe de Textile Franco-Americaine S.A. (STFA). STFA is a company primarily engaged in similar types of operation in Paris and North-Western France. Initial will have a 25 per cent interest in the restructuring.

French holding company (to be renamed SA Decroix) with the remaining 65 per cent held by members of the Decroix family. The Australian mining company which is now chiefly gold producer, made interim profits of £54.1m (12m) during the six months to the end of December, compared with £52.1m in 1979. Directors have deferred an interim dividend, although the time they paid five cents. The average gold price recovered rose by 51 per cent to \$254 an ounce.

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1980 31	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
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75	39	Airsprung Group	65	-	6.7	10.3	5.9
48	21	Armitage & Rhodes	48	+1	1.4	2.9	13.8
192	92	Barclays Bank	190	-	9.7	5.1	7.1
98	88	Debonair Services	94	+1	5.5	5.9	4.7
126	88						



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Taking positions

Suggestions in the weekend press that the budget may be rather tougher than expected helped gilts yesterday. "Longs" trading was not heavy and few investors were willing to open new positions ahead of the Chancellor's speech.

The authorities must be hoping that the Chancellor will offer the market sufficient encouragement to clear the long "tap" on Wednesday, in which case we may expect two new stocks announced on Friday.

Meanwhile, the banks are required to restore their reserve asset ratios to at least 10 per cent today. Whether they are going to be required to hold them there for very much longer remains to be seen.

A near 17-point fall in the FT index since last Wednesday may reflect a straightforward technical reaction to an overbought position, not helped by a series of dividend cuts. But the market is clearly not prepared to hold out much hope of a clear lead being given to industry by the Chancellor and shares the gilt market's cynicism about whatever forecasts emerge today.

Just as clearly, however, equity specialists are not prepared to give up on the market just yet—however fragile that hope may be—led on by thoughts of the climb out of recession late this year or next. Selective buying in the engineering sector has already indicated investors' hopes of lower interest rates resulting in an end to destocking and liquidity pressures. Significantly, though, capital goods companies remain friendly and there are also fears that a classic bull trap may be emerging with a weak upturn bringing back the inflationary spiral and higher interest rates.

One or two sectors, however, still seem to be offering scope not least housebuilders, which can only benefit from some improvement in the competitive position of building societies as rates come down. Brewers even are discounting fairly swinging profits performance in the face of adversity and dividend prospects. More controversially perhaps stores could emerge as attractive from an MLR cut reversing the high savings ratio. Even falling this prospect they are likely to attract support if only on the "least bad" equity argument. We shall see.

● Cable & Wireless looks like being the next major asset sale by the Government with the disposal of just under half the shares pencilled in for the autumn.

Like British Aerospace there are problems in valuing the company since there is no comparable group to set it up against. All the same the group sports a good profit record, in historic accounting terms at least, although it is rather spottier on its own current cost accounting figures, and a handsome return on capital employed. It seems as though the Treasury is hoping to raise more than £100m as a result.

The prospectus will, however, need to convince investors that denationalization will not harm its trading prospects in the 30 or so countries overseas in which it operates. The Government has opened discussions with C & W's major overseas customers and is claiming to have had a positive response. But there is the residual danger that overseas governments, in lucrative markets like Hong Kong or Bahrain, would nationalize C & W if private capital is allowed in which may complicate the eventual structure of the company that the merchant bankers finally decide upon.

Furniture  
Parker Knoll in the recession

Fears that the recession would wreak havoc on the fortunes of furniture manufacturers were justified: the industry has seen more than 130 closures and 10,000 redundancies in the last year.

But Parker Knoll managed to inject some hope with interim results even if profits were down by an expected 42 per cent at £1.8m, for that contrasts with the experience of its neighbour and rival Comma Holdings, the G-Plan group, which has already warned of a first half loss down from last year's £1.6m profit.

Parker Knoll has been forced to fight for gross margins in its furniture business and although no redundancies were declared, it worked a three day week for

most of the six months. Thus while furniture profit was halved at £250,000, textiles, which now contribute about 60 per cent of profit, fell by a third to £500,000.

With the second half likely to benefit from a price increase and renewed Government contracts, which make up a fifth of group business, as well as an improved order book after the January sales, Parker Knoll's steady outlook is reflected by an unchanged share price. At 110p and assuming a maintained 10p gross dividend, the shares yield 9 per cent, slightly above average, while the balance sheet remains strong with £1.5m cash. One way, then, of staying in the sector, but without much prospect of excitement.

Finance houses  
Different stories

Finance houses owned by clearing banks are notoriously difficult to assess. Much depends on the cost of funds they get from their parent banks and on the tax effective leasing business these banks may need.

It is perhaps not surprising, then, that Mercantile Credit, owned by Barclays, has reported record profits, while Forward Trust, Midlands subsidiary, which also reported yesterday ahead of the parent group's figures, has followed the general trend of finance houses and announced lower profits.

But Mercantile has also shown foresight and seems one of the few, if not the only one, among finance houses to have read interest rates correctly several months ago.

Forward Trust now an umbrella organization for Midland's factoring, hire purchase and leasing business. It has reported profits before tax of £25.6m for last year as against £31.2m in 1979. But on a fully comparable basis some £2m should be lopped off 1980 because of year end changes at Griffin Factor and Midland Montagu Leasing (UK).

It is the after tax profits, which includes the real benefits of leasing, that matter for the Midland Group. These show profits up from £52m to £58m. At Forward Trust total assets have grown modestly from £1,300m to £1,500m and new business taken on went up only slightly from £870m to £900m. At the same time cost of money rose by 3 per cent. This low volume growth and high cost of money explains the figures.

At Mercantile, whose pre-tax profits are up from £36.9m to £38m are up to a new record, the situation has been vastly different. The balance sheet shows healthy volume growth with total assets up from £1,200m to £1,700m. Leasing business is up from £578m to over £1,000m, enough to explain some of the growth. But Mercantile also borrowed long when others, anticipating interest rate falls, went short and it has reaped the benefits of its pessimism.

Now that interest rates are falling Mercantile could lose some of its cost of funds advantage while groups such as Forward will gain on their fixed rate business which account for half of the loan portfolio. Even so, falling interest rates, continued growth of leasing and, possibly, more consumer confidence should benefit finance houses later this year.

● Robertson Foods is pulling out all the stops to ward off the £10m share-exchange offer from Avana, forecasting profits of £2.4m before tax for the year to the end of March. But for the disruption caused by rationalizing the preserves business profits would have been £800,000 higher still.

Compared with profits of £2.5m the year before and £2.7m two years earlier, this forecast is not exciting; nor is the promised rise in the dividend from 9.0 p to 9.1 p gross. The arguments for staying with Robertson are that the problems in preserves have been overcome and that there is the possibility of a higher bid from someone else.

Robertson says with some justification, that Avana is taking advantage of the surge in its shares and the share price is now speculative. Takeover speculation has certainly helped the rise in Avana shares.

Avana's offer, worth 163p for each Robertson share, values Robertson on a full-tax exit p/e ratio of about 16½ which looks fair.

But surprisingly Robertson has only been able to muster 29 per cent of the equity against the bid.

For those Robertson shareholders who want to play safe and perhaps risk losing an extra 10 per cent profit, there must be a good case for selling in the market.

## If we had known then what we know now

On Budget morning it would not be helpful or kind to remind a Chancellor in search of a medium-term financial strategy of the old Irish joke which ends: "If that's where you're trying to get to, you shouldn't be starting from here." But a Chancellor's lot on such occasions would be a great deal happier if he knew even approximately from where he was starting.

The fact is that, even though we enjoy the services of what is probably the second best government statistical service in the world, at the moment when a Chancellor has to make the crucial Budget judgments he is as good as flying blind.

The fact that the margin of error and subsequent correction of key economic and financial statistics more than comprehends the range which triggers government policy was borne in on me in a very direct fashion. It was at one of those off-the-record briefings for journalists, organized by the legendary Miss Annabelle Lee, with the then President of the Board of Trade, Mr Anthony Crosland.

It was one of those briefings that were held on a "lobby basis" and

which therefore never took place and which I am sure are a thing of the past.

At first it was not clear why the President of the Board of Trade should take so much of his time out of one afternoon in order to fill in a group of trustees on the background to an article that had appeared in the September, 1980 issue of the *Board of Trade Journal*. The article had announced that it had been discovered that for years, because of the method of estimation, exports had been under-recorded at the rate of about 2 per cent.

The matter had come to light because of a dispute between the British Iron and Steel Federation and the Polish embassy in London. Each found that they were having an enormous dispute about the Anglo-Polish balance of trade on the basis of figures that in no way matched. It all seemed rather technical and quite good news, but somehow the President was uneasy and anxious.

Slowly it began to dawn why. His fear was that the newspapers the next morning might put 2 per cent and 2 per cent together and run headlines to the effect that the Labour Govern-

ment had decided on the November, 1967, devaluation on the basis of a statistical error. And with hindsight it is near enough true.

If, as is now supposed to be the case, it had been known that the visible trade deficit for the first quarter of 1967 had been under £40m, as opposed to the announced over £105m (for the big figures were smaller in those distant and innocent days), it is highly questionable whether the pro-devaluation bandwagon would have begun rolling in quite the same way.

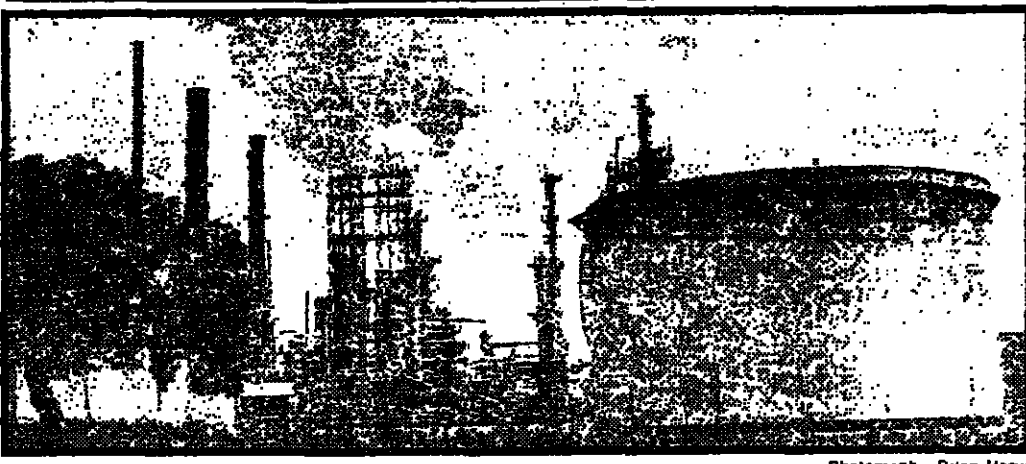
The statistical "What would have happened if we knew then what we know now?" game continues. Take two more recent episodes. The first was the Heath "dash for growth", which ended in inflationary disaster, and the second was the Labour Government's travails with the International Monetary Fund in 1976.

Everyone knew that the Heath Government was taking risks in trying to blast the economy out of low productivity. The conventional assumption was that the underlying growth capacity of the economy was about 3 per cent a year and that anything faster

would generate inflation. The Government hoped that its prices and incomes policy could keep the lid on an expansion that was significantly faster.

Now in fact we know that between the first half of 1972 and the first half of 1973 real disposable income rose by something like 7 per cent. Little wonder the lid blew off. And in 1976, when a Labour Government was hit by the fact that the balance of trade went on perversely deteriorating and was forced to go cap in hand to the IMF, the atmosphere and the analysis might well have been different if it had been known that the economy was quite conventionally over-heating—with a rise in gross domestic product of nearly 4½ per cent in the second half of the year (at an annual rate) as usual sucking in imports.

Perhaps Sir Geoffrey Howe will be asking whether he would have done something different in 1980, if he had known that the public sector borrowing requirement would have been £13,500m this year instead of the forecast £8,500m. But we shall hear more later today.



Zimbabwe's only oil refinery, the Feruka refinery which closed in 1965 after the imposition of sanctions and an oil embargo as a result of UDL.

## Why Mr Mugabe is losing patience over oil

Salisbury

An angry outburst by Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's prime minister, has thrown into sharp relief the conflict between the new nation's aspirations and the reality of its dependence on the supply of oil from South Africa.

Mr Mugabe had just completed a tour of Feruka, Zimbabwe's only oil refinery, which has been closed since the introduction of economic sanctions and the oil embargo on Rhodesia at the end of 1965.

The refinery, at Umfali on the country's eastern border, was designed in 1962 along with the pipeline that runs to it from the Mozambique port of Beira. It was meant to provide for the oil needs of Rhodesia and Zambia but operated for only 10 months.

The Government believes that not enough has been done since sanctions were lifted to bring Feruka into operation again. Mr Mugabe told a political rally 10 days ago that if the consortium, which owns Feruka, did not take immediate measures to "reconvert" its function the Government would take action.

He did not elaborate, but the desire for independence and for relief from the huge cost of importing refined oil products from South Africa is given impetus by the assurance received by the Government that the pipeline, which was also closed in 1965, will be in operation again by October.

The shareholders in the consortium, Central African Petroleum Industries (Capref), are Shell and BP (20.75 per cent each), Mobil (17.75), Caltex (15.75), American Independent (15) and Total Zimbabwe and Kuwait National (5 per cent each).

A study by the American firm, Fluor, commissioned by the consortium to discover how 15 years of disuse have affected Feruka, was completed in December. Although it has not been made public, it is known that dampness in asbestos fibre insulation has caused exhaust chimneys to rust, necessitating the stripping

## Stephen Taylor

and replacement of the insulation and treatment of the metal.

It is likely that reconditioning work will exceed the original building cost of about £10m.

A spokesman for Capref denied in London that the consortium was dragging its heels: "It has been spent on the study and the outcome had been discussed with the government. Further talks would be held later this month, the spokesman said after Mr Mugabe's statement."

The main consideration affecting Feruka's future operation concerns the difference between the functions it was designed for and the present needs of Zimbabwe.

The refinery was built to process 907,000 tonnes of light Iranian crude a year and produce premium and regular petrol, diesel and air turbine fuel, paraffin, liquid petroleum gas, solvent and bitumen. The country now needs more diesel than petrol, and in any case, no longer requires premium petrol, because cars are being run on a blend of 85 per cent regular petrol and 15 per cent local produced ethanol. Demand for aviation fuel and liquid petroleum gas has increased sharply.

Mr Ian Yeoman, the general manager of Capref, has said that the refinery could be open by June, 1982. The import of refined products from South Africa cost about £102m in 1979 and that delay would mean a nearly intolerable burden for Zimbabwe.

Another consideration. This is the Lombe-owned pipeline from Beira to the refinery—a factor which no doubt weighed heavily with Mr Mugabe in his criticism of the consortium.

While the pipeline, too, has been out of operation since 1965 and a lot of work has to be done before it can be reopened, the government has

been told that this can be completed by October. Provided that the facilities at Beira are adequate, the pipeline could supply almost all Zimbabwe's requirements at much less cost than the rail and road networks from South Africa.

Even before the refinery comes back on stream the pipeline could carry refined products, with the crude following later.

The pipeline was designed to carry up to one million tons a year of crude and refined oil and as the country's needs this year are likely to amount to some 700,000 tons, mainly of petrol and diesel fuel, it could meet that fairly comfortably. But there is uncertainty about whether modern aviation fuel can pass through the pipe without being contaminated.

Studies of the line by a London company, Pipeline Technologists, have revealed that a 40-kilometre stretch passing through the Pungwe marshes near Beira are corroded and will have to be replaced. Piping has been ordered from Japan and the first shipment is due to arrive in Beira in June. It must be laid quickly, because the area is submerged during the rainy season. The rains will end this month, to be followed by about seven dry months.

It is proposed to strip about 80 kilometres of the pipeline of its protective coating and treat it with an anti-corrosive while the new pipe is laid. Work is also being carried out on the two pumping stations, one at Beira and the other about 150 kilometres along the 288 kilometre-long line.

The future of the pipeline is under consideration, because an expanding nation is likely to demand more fuel by the middle of the decade (if not earlier) than it can carry. The introduction of two more pumping stations would boost the flow to about 1.25 million tons a year, but there could soon come a time when, as Lombe says, "We may have to consider building a second pipeline."

## Withering on the vine...

One small group of British entrepreneurs is praying for good weather in 1981 even more fervently than the country's holidaymakers, tour operators, ice cream manufacturers or brewers.

For many of those rarities, the English *vignerons*, this year's weather could mean final surrender in the face of the elements and economic verities. It could lead to their grubbing out their vines to make room for drier crops, like potatoes, more suitably suited to the English climate.

Almost incredibly, grapes for wine making were grown continuously in England from the First World War until the Second World War and the English Vineyarders Association now regards 236 vineyards as on a scale that it considers "commercial".

This means that they cover more than half an acre each—more a lot when one considers the hundreds of thousands of acres under vines in countries such as France, Spain, Italy and even Russia. How "commercial" the English vineyards really are is often a secret kept between the growers, their accountants and the Inland Revenue.

The owners vary from enthusiasts with private means or, as some would say, money than sense to hard-headed business interests such as the large German wine house of Ploech, which recently hedged its bets to the extent of investing in a vineyard in Sussex. Very few have the resources of Mr Kenneth McAlpine, scion of the civil engineers and owner of Lambhurst Priory, set up with processing and bottling equipment costing more than £300,000.

For most of those engaged in wine making is essentially a secondary business, run in conjunction perhaps with a restaurant (as with Mr Kenneth Bell at Thorbury, which recently hedged its bets to the extent of investing in a vineyard in Sussex. Very few have the resources of Mr Kenneth McAlpine, scion of the civil engineers and owner of Lambhurst Priory, set up with processing and bottling equipment costing more than £300,000).

Mr Ian Paget edits the vineyard association's newsletter, *The Grape Press*, and has the rather morbid job of collecting growers' reports from around the country. Glumly he divides the items in his latest issue into "bad news" and "other news" and he makes no secret of his own financial embarrassment.

"In 1976", he says, "we had a bumper crop. It was that crop which headed us for 'Queer Street'. We had the equivalent of 80,000 bottles in the fields, cropping at 11 tonnes, or 11,000 bottles to the acre."

"We had so many grapes and so few fermentation tanks that even after rushing out to buy three huge Italian tanks we could make only 62,000 bottles."

"I sold the Italian tanks and spent £20,000 buying an extra 20,000 litres capacity in German tanks. They have never been used since, and because the Deutschmark was high

when I bought them, they would cost little more now if I bought them new."

The Pagets rent a 13-acre vineyard and, since they plant rather than most English growers, have some 20,000 vines, making them potentially perhaps the fifth largest producers in Britain. In 1977 they made only 19,000 bottles, in 1978 a mere 4,000 and in 1979 about 9,000. There was no wine at all in 1980, and because each year's weather influences the next year's set of flowers, Mr Paget dare not hope for more than half a crop this year even if things go ideally from now on.

There cannot be many occupations where one can work for a whole year and see no result," Mr Paget says. "You have to go on spraying, weeding and pruning, putting in more and more money and labour, just to keep nature at bay. But you cannot just walk away from 20,000 vines that you have planted, tended and cherished."

On top of these troubles Mr Paget has seen rabbits and moles kill more than a thousand of his young *Sevay* vines. Filling in the gaps with younger replacements will make the vineyard much more difficult to work. Adding insult to injury, the Inland Revenue has decided that his winery and home plant are not agricultural, but should pay industrial rates, which would mean about another £300 a year. The National Farmers' Union is supporting Mr Paget before the Lands Tribunal.

In 1981 Mr Paget says, "we develop tourism or go to the wall". Childsdown is opposite the Wealden Downland Open Air Museum and attracted 5,000 visitors last year at about 50p a head.

If the British know little about wine-making, Mr Paget says, it must be because they so seldom pass the first hurdle of getting a crop of grapes. His experience is not untypical. There are growers who have not had a decent crop in eight or nine years of effort. One Sussex winegrower is on the point of taking out his vines to try open-air potting instead.

At Adgestone last year, Mr Ken Barlow's *Sevay* had almost all its flowers, cutting the crop to 8,000 bottles. At Biddenden, rain in June and July cut the crop to one fifth of its original potential.

Mr Ken Barlow's *Sevay* had almost all its flowers, cutting the crop to 8,000 bottles. At Biddenden, rain in June and July cut the crop to one fifth of its original potential.

In Wiltshire Dr Gordon Caldwell, who produces one of the country's two commercial red wines, sold all his 1979 crop (10 cases) to one London wine merchant.

Yet the growers all hope for a better 1981. "It would be nice to see the reversal of a decent growing season," Dr Caldwell says. "Somehow we must sail this aircraft carrier nearer the sun." Not only wine lovers, but all who admire determination and dogged persistence, must hope it keeps fine for them.

Robin Young

## Business Diary: Bad dogs and Englishmen • Pay as you err

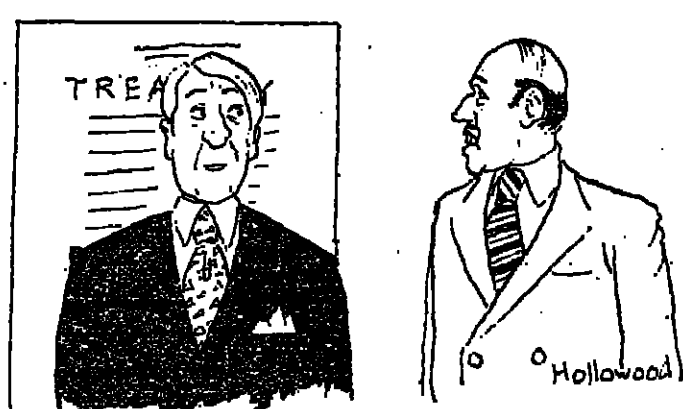
With the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Geoffrey Howe, by all accounts needing to raise more than £3,000m in extra taxes next year, now is not the time to overlook potential sources of government revenue, however small.

The pleasures of alcohol, tobacco and motoring have monopolized the taxman's interest for too long, while another rapidly growing, but equally anti-social, pastime has escaped the attention of successive Chancellors.

The cost of a dog licence, at 37p, has remained unchanged since it was raised to 7s 6d from 5s in 1878. What is more, fewer than half the 51 million dogs in the country are licensed in the first place, making the dog licence as voluntary a tax as the notorious estate duty used to be.

The cost of the bureaucracy to administer the licence now runs to £1.8m a year, according to the Department of the Environment—nearly twice the paltry £1m the Government gets back in revenue.

The very least the Chancellor should do is to increase the cost of the licence in line with the rise in the cost of living since it was last updated, to accord with the widely accepted indexation principle. The equivalent of 7s 6d, in 1878 is about £10 today. If all dogs were licensed this could bring in £55m a year—as much as 5p on a bottle of wine and 30p on a bottle of scotch.



"When is President Reagan doing a *quid pro quo* by coming to London to discuss his mistakes with Mrs Thatcher?"

● Who is the richest man in Italy? He is a certain Valerio Alpi, owner of a firm with 850 workers making wooden fixtures at Forlì in the Communist-ruled region of Emilia-Romagna, if the latest figures issued by the finance ministry are anything to go by.

Admittedly, the figures are for the year 1977, and many things have changed in the meantime, but then he submitted a tax return showing an income of 863m lire (then about £550,000).

Industrialists are well down the list. Leopoldo Pirelli comes 67th with 339m lire (then £220,000). Umberto Agnelli 108th with 297m lire (£190,000)

and his elder brother, the Fiat chairman, Giovanni Agnelli, 157th with 258m lire (£165,000). Cheating the Revenue has always been an Italian pastime, and perhaps Alpi should qualify rather for the title of the most honest rather than richest man in the country. After all, only 105 people admitted to a gross income of over 300m lire (£193,000).

The gangs engaged on the highly profitable industry of kidnappings have undoubtedly a better idea than the finance ministry of the real wealth accumulated by the upper crust. Meanwhile, Spain's upper bracket taxpayers are getting a break at last. From now on

they will not pay any less, but they will be less dangerously exposed.

After the kidnapping last January of the man who paid the highest personal income tax last year, Señor Luis Suñer, the Madrid government is at last listening to the wealthy. It will give up the practice of publishing the complete list of income tax payers every year.

Not all of the list has been suppressed, however. The taxes on earnings of public office holders will still be put on public display at the finance ministry.

The Greek instinct for business is demonstrated amply during the earth tremors which occasionally dislocate the economy of Athens.

While some shopkeepers will promptly pull down their shutters and flee at the slightest geological convulsion, pedlars show their sense of occasion by producing push-carts piled high with the electric torches and batteries, whistles and vacuum flasks that seismologists urge people to keep handy in case a strong shock brings their homes tumbling down.

Most ingenious of all are the drivers of modern tourist coaches, otherwise idle because of the winter season. Fleeting Athenians are offered a night's accommodation in airline-seat comfort, complete with heating and television, by the seaside, and far from dangerous buildings for about a pound a head.

● Brian Hill, managing director of builders Higgs and Hill, the construction company, notched up a unique hat-trick yesterday when he was installed as president of the London region of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

Hill became the third member of his family to occupy the post. His grandfather Edmund was president in 1916 and his father Gerald held the post in 1953. Brian Hill is also the first chartered surveyor to preside over the builders.

Hill is 48 and is the seventh generation of a family of builders which started business in the south of England in the eighteenth century. The company merged with the Higgs family business in 1874, although Higgs participation petered out half a century ago. The company remains distinctly Hill country. Brian's brother Anthony looks after its overseas interests, while cousin David is another, main board director.

Will the family link continue? Brian cannot say for sure, but he has a son at Reading University studying to be a chartered surveyor.

The construction industry is in the doldrums just now, although Higgs and Hill had an exciting time of it last year, fighting off a takeover attempt by BICC. "The industry still has an exciting future, for we have to work hard and use their initiative"

● The ripples are still fanning out from last week's tailpiece about the mayor in the Northwest who, on being told that a gondola would improve the municipal lake, replied: "We could get two and breed them in Pets Corner."

A. Non, of the National Coal Board in Scotland, (A. Non?) says that the anecdote was first told of Glasgow in 1901. J. S. Jewitt, of Darlington, says that it was told of his own town "over 50 years ago", and Mrs B. B. Hopkinson, of Nottingham, says that it was "heard" 40 years ago.

The delightfully-named Rev Alex Pullenayegum writes from his Reigate vicarage to say that the tale "was current in Sri Lanka in the thirties during a similar debate in the hill country."

He asks, as well he might: "Coincidence... or common source?"

Book-burning is back in style, not in Berlin but here. Book-seller Richard Booth of Hay on Wye is offering 100 tons of books for sale to wood-burners who can take them away for reading or for burning. Booth, who has 1.5 million second-hand books on 11 miles of shelves, says that it no longer pays him to send surplus books for pulping because the recession has put paid to that market.

Ross Davies

## PROVIDENT MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION

Notice is hereby given that the 140th Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held in the Council Chamber, Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HY on Wednesday, 1 April 1981 at 12.30 p.m., to include the following:

1. To adopt the Report and Accounts for 1980.
2. To confirm the appointment of Mr Peter Neville Buckley as a Director of the Association.
3. To re-elect Mr David Lars Manwaring Robertson as a Director of the Association.
4. To re-elect Mr Peter Baring as a Director of the Association.
5. To re-elect The Right Honourable Lord Farnham as a Director of the Association.
6. To re-appoint Pannell Kerr Forster as auditors of the Association to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

G. W. Stirling, Secretary  
10 March, 1981.



§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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# Salerooms and Antiques



8 King Street, St James's  
London SW1Y 6QT. Tel: 01-839 9060  
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Thursday, 12 March, at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.  
FINE ENGLISH FURNITURE, EASTERN RUGS AND  
CARPETS. Catalogue £4.50.  
Friday, 13 March, at 10.30 a.m.  
MODERN BRITISH AND IRISH PAINTINGS,  
DRAWINGS AND SCULPTURE. Catalogue £4.  
Monday, 16 March, at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.  
IMPORTANT CHINESE EXPORT PORCELAIN AND  
WORKS OF ART. Catalogue £6.  
Monday, 16 March, at 11 a.m.  
ENGLISH PORCELAIN, POTTERY AND WEDGWOOD.  
Catalogue £1.45.  
Tuesday, 17 March, at 10 a.m.  
ANCIENT COINS. Catalogue £1.25.  
Tuesday, 17 March, at 11 a.m.  
FINE JAPANESE PRINTS, PAINTINGS AND SCREENS.  
Catalogue £2.  
OVERSEAS SALES  
IN ROME  
AT THE PALAZZO MASSIMO LANCELOTTI  
Thursday, 19 March, at 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.  
PRINTED BOOKS INCLUDING ART REFERENCE,  
TRAVEL AND ATLASES. Catalogue £2.  
IN HOLLAND  
AT ROKIN 85, AMSTERDAM  
Thursday, 19 March, at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.  
ASIAN CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART. Catalogue  
£3.  
All catalogue prices are post paid.  
All sales subject to the conditions printed in the  
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For details of sales at Christie's South Kensington,  
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Quentin Agnew-Somerville Tel: (0624) 815 724  
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Richard de La Hay Tel: (0534) 77582

## Phillips

Tuesday, 10 March, 11 a.m.  
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND WORKS OF ART  
Tuesday, 10 March, 1.30 p.m.  
ANTIQUE AND MODERN JEWELLERY

Wednesday, 11 March, 11 a.m.  
GOOD ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL CERAMICS  
AND GLASS including a collection of Welsh  
porcelain. Illustrated Catalogue £1.75 by post

Wednesday, 11 March, 12 noon  
POSTCARDS  
Viewing: Day Prior 9 a.m.-4.30 p.m. and Morning of  
Sale until 11 a.m. Illustrated Catalogue £1 by post

Thursday, 12 March 11 a.m.  
POSTAGE STAMPS: The Mrs. W. Leeds G.B.  
Collection. Illustrated Catalogue 75p by post

Thursday, 12 March, 1.30 p.m.  
PRINTED BOOKS, ATLASES, MAPS AND MANU-  
SCRIPTS. Illustrated Catalogue £1.27 by post

Friday, 13 March, 11 a.m.  
SILVER AND PLATE  
Illustrated Catalogue 75p by post

Monday, 16 March, 11 a.m.  
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND OBJECTS

Monday, 16 March, 1.30 p.m.  
MODERN BRITISH PICTURES, DRAWINGS AND  
SCULPTURE including items from the studio of Sir  
David Murray, R.A. Illustrated Catalogue £2.00 by post

Tuesday, 17 March, 11 a.m.  
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND WORKS OF ART

Tuesday, 17 March, 2 p.m.  
ETHNOGRAPHICAL ITEMS AND ANTIQUITIES

## Glendinings

Wednesday, 18th March, at 10.30 a.m.  
BRITISH ORDERS, DECORATIONS & MEDALS  
including a collection of campaign medals in which the  
Africa series (South Africa, 1853; South Africa 1877-79;  
British South Africa Company, 1896; and Africa General  
Service, 1902), are well represented.  
(Catalogue—Price 50p)

Wednesday, 25th March, at 10.30 a.m.  
ANCIENT COINS  
in gold, silver and bronze  
including Greek, Roman and Byzantine issues  
(Illustrated Catalogue (4 Plates)—Price £1)

Wednesday, 8th April, at 10 a.m.  
and  
Thursday, 9th April, at 1 p.m.  
ENGLISH & FOREIGN COINS  
in gold, silver and bronze  
also Numismatic Books and Catalogues  
(Illustrated Catalogue (7 Plates)—Price £1)

Thursday, 30th April, at 10.30 a.m.  
ENGLISH & FOREIGN COINS  
in gold, silver and bronze  
(Catalogue—Price 50p)

Catalogues for further Sales of Coins and Medals to be  
held in the Summer are in course of preparation. Collectors  
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Tuesday 10th March at 10.30 a.m.  
THE LIPKIN COLLECTION OF ENGLISH AND  
IRISH DELTWARE PART I Cat. (125 illus.) £.7.50

Wednesday 11th March at 10.30 a.m.  
AN IMPORTANT COLLECTION OF ISLAMIC  
COINS AND RELATED REFERENCE BOOKS  
Cat. (96 illus.) £3

Wednesday 11th March at 11 a.m.  
BRITISH IMPRESSIONIST AND POST-  
IMPRESSIONIST PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS  
Cat. (112 illus.) £6.50

Wednesday 11th March at 2.30 p.m.  
MODERN BRITISH PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS  
AND SCULPTURE Cat. (104 illus.) £5

Thursday 12th March at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.  
FINE 18th AND 19th CENTURY ENGLISH,  
CONTINENTAL AND MODERN BRITISH  
PAINTINGS Cat. (102 illus.) £4

Friday 13th March at 10 a.m.  
ORIENTAL RUGS AND CARPETS  
and at 11 a.m.  
GOOD ENGLISH FURNITURE, BIRD PICTURES  
AND BLUE-GLAZED POTTERY Cat. (126 illus.) £5

Monday 16th March at 10.30 a.m.  
PRINTED BOOKS Cat. (12 illus.) £2

Tuesday 17th March at 10.30 a.m.  
FINE CHINESE EXPORT PORCELAIN  
Cat. (189 illus.) £6.50

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Belgravia  
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Telephone: (07982) 3831

Tuesday 17th March at 11 a.m.  
VICTORIAN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND  
WATERCOLOURS Cat. (96 illus.) £4.40

Wednesday 18th March at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
GOOD FRENCH AND CONTINENTAL  
FURNITURE, DECORATIVE CLOCKS AND  
WORKS OF ART, CLOCKS AND WATCHES  
Cat. (187 illus.) £4.75

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Chester  
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Booth Mansion, 28-30 Watergate Street,  
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Thursday 19th March at 11.30 a.m. at Booth Mansion and  
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Tuesday 17th March at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
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ITEMS AND SPORTING GUNS

Wednesday 18th March at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
PAINTINGS, PRINTS, TOYS, DOLLS AND  
COLLECTORS' ITEMS

Thursday 19th March at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
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BIJOUTERIE Illus. Cat. £1.50

Torquay  
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TQ4 5TG Telephone: (0803) 26277  
Wednesday 18th March at 10.30 a.m.  
JEWELLERY Cat. £1

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Via Gino Capponi 26, Florence 50121  
Telephone: (055) 571410  
Saturday 21st March at 10.30 a.m. and 4 p.m.  
19th CENTURY PICTURES Illus. Cat. £4

Catalogues may be purchased at our salerooms or by post  
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## Books, Books, Books

Auction No. 13 of Numismatic Literature  
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## Coins, Coins, Coins

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1695-1704 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1705-1714 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1715-1724 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1725-1734 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1735-1744 yrs: Professional, Careers  
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1875-1884 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1885-1894 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1895-1904 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1905-1914 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1915-1924 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1925-1934 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1935-1944 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1945-1954 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1955-1964 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1965-1974 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1975-1984 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1985-1994 yrs: Professional, Careers  
1995-2004 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2005-2014 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2015-2024 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2025-2034 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2035-2044 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2045-2054 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2055-2064 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2065-2074 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2075-2084 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2085-2094 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2095-2104 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2105-2114 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2115-2124 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2125-2134 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2135-2144 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2145-2154 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2155-2164 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2165-2174 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2175-2184 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2185-2194 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2195-2204 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2205-2214 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2215-2224 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2225-2234 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2235-2244 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2245-2254 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2255-2264 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2265-2274 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2275-2284 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2285-2294 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2295-2304 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2305-2314 yrs: Professional, Careers  
2315-2324 yrs: Professional, Careers  
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2375-2384 yrs: Professional, Careers  
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3385-3394 yrs: Professional, Careers  
3395-3404 yrs: Professional, Careers  
3405-3414 yrs: Professional, Careers  
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3575-3584 yrs: Professional, Careers  
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3595-3604 yrs: Professional, Careers  
3605-3614 yrs: Professional, Careers  
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